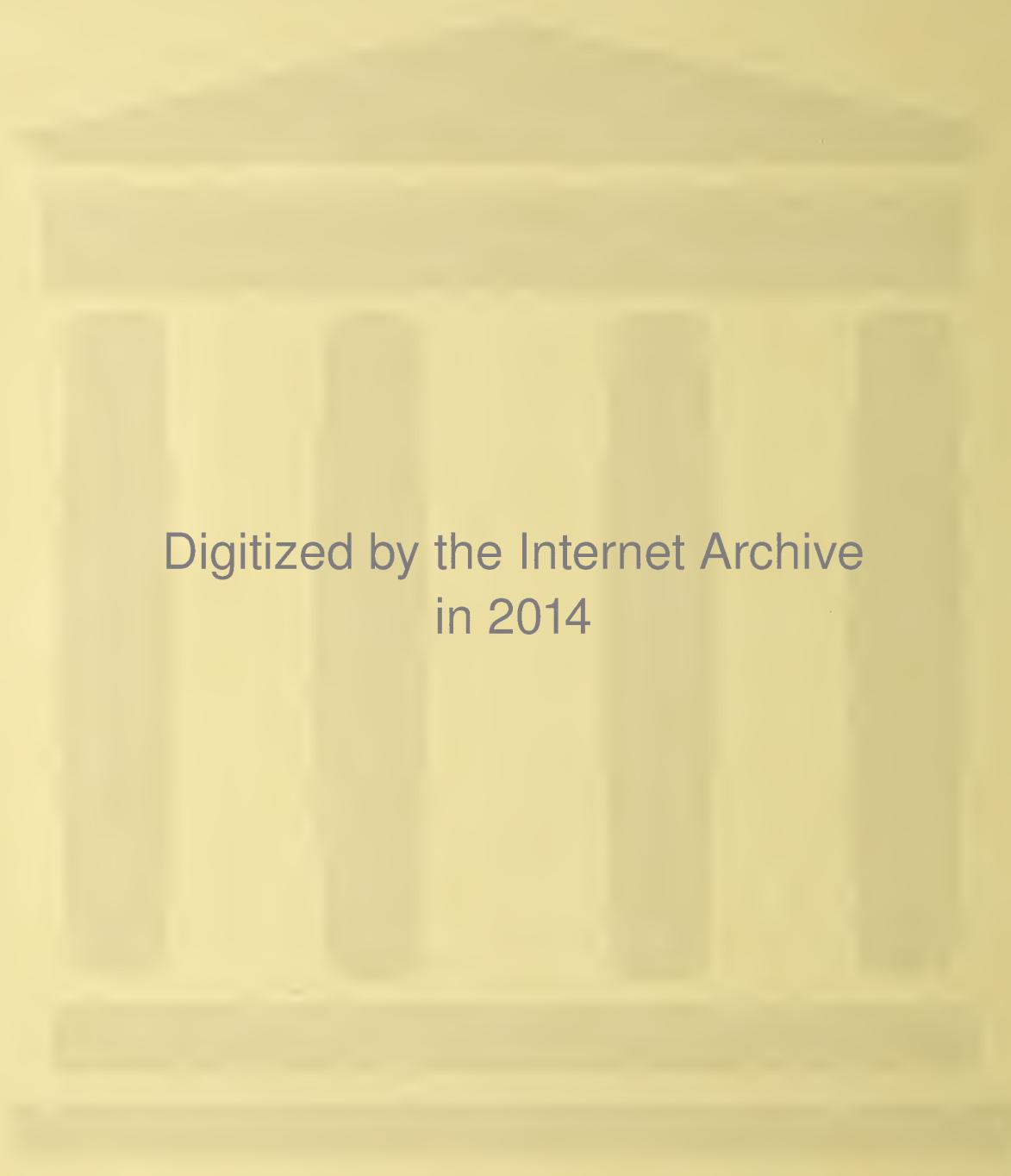


"I SEE IN THE FUTURE
A CRISIS APPROACHING"

DRAWER 6A

SPURIOUS QUOTATIONS

7/2009 DRC 64435

A faint, large watermark of the Lincoln Memorial is visible in the background, centered horizontally.

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Abraham Lincoln Quotations & Sayings Spurious

“I See in the Future a Crisis
Approaching...”

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

A Probable Forgery.

The following paragraph appears from time to time in a certain class of papers as an alleged quotation from President Lincoln:

I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of the war.

There is no reason to believe that Mr. Lincoln ever made a statement of this kind, and ex-Senator Ingalls is doubtless right in denouncing it as "a malignant and clumsy forgery." The manner as well as the matter is inconsistent with what we know of the style of a man who was nothing if not original in his methods of expression. It is easy, as a rule, to identify a piece of Lincoln's composition by certain marks and signs that were peculiar to him under all circumstances. The above extract does not resemble any declaration that he ever made. It bears no hint of his characteristic force and precision, and is not to be found in any of his published writings. The proof of authenticity is utterly wanting, in short, and the conclusion must be that he never wrote it.

There can be no doubt, of course, that Lincoln was in hearty sympathy with the working classes and anxious to do all he could for the promotion of their welfare and happiness; but it does not follow that he favored such schemes of reform as this extract is usually employed to justify and commend. It is entirely safe to say that he did not borrow any trouble on account of the possible destruction of the republic by the aggregation of all the wealth in a few hands. There was no issue of that kind presented in his time. He had questions of a far more definite and practical nature to deal with, and he did not neglect them for the purpose of making doleful predictions with regard to the evil results of the growth of corporations. The great absorbing subject that enlisted his attention and inspired his proceedings was that of saving the Union. He was not yet through with that solemn and terrible task when his career was closed and his name invested with everlasting pathos and tenderness. We may be very sure that he had not taken time to consider interests of a remote and doubtful order. He was not the man to say that he saw another crisis approaching that unnerved him and caused him to tremble for the national safety. That was not his way of looking at the future, and it is an insult to his intelligence and his patriotism to represent him as talking in such an absurd and unworthy fashion.

C. D. 12-1, 1881

LINCOLN AND LABOR

The Great Emancipator Always Found Favor- ing the Masses.

NEWS READER CALLS MCKINLEY

The Trust Candidate Sought to Pervert Old 'Abe's' Words.

New York News 8-24-96

Editor of the News: In one of his recent numerous stump speeches delivered in Canton to some troops of colored militia, Major McKinley very shrewdly quoted as follows:

"It is as Mr. Lincoln said to the committee from the Workingmen's Association of New York in the campaign of 1861: Property is the fruit of labor. Property is desirable; it is a positive good in the world. That some should be rich shows that others may become rich, and hence is just encouragement to industry and enterprise. Let no man who is homeless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built.'

The inference drawn from it was that the great emancipator was on the side of capital, as against labor—an inference entirely at variance not only with his principles, but his whole life and actions.

The readiness with which McKinley, the Plutocratic press and all the hirelings of various corporations and criminal trust conspirators quote this one sentence, the truth fulness of which no one can dispute—but only the shameful inference which they deduct from it—recalls that arch-hypocrite, Richard the Third, who, having arranged in advance with the conspirators to offer him the British crown, gets out his Bible and pretends to be devoutly reading it when they shall come to him in public, saying to himself: "Thus I clothe my naked villainy with old, odd ends stolen forth from Holy Writ, and seem a saint when most I play the devil."

These men carefully refrain from telling that Lincoln was himself a common laborer—"a rail splitter"—a farm hand laboring by the month for \$8 and \$12. They slander the great heart that always beat in sympathy with the honest toiler; they strive to justify their own cruel and unjust position toward the laboring masses by dragging the greatest laborer who ever lived from the lofty pedestal of ideality where virtue, honesty and love for humanity have been crowned at the hands of all the liberty-loving people of the civilized world, down to their own selfish and ignoble plane—a plane where the laborer is considered beneath their station, unfit to associate with (except about election time), where honesty is sneered at as an "iridescent dream in politics," and patriotism is to be practiced "for revenue only."

In view of this outrageous slander upon the character and principles of one of our best-belov'd statesmen, whose life and deeds are in themselves a fortress for the oppressed and a bulwark for liberty, let us roll away the stone from the tomb at Springfield, revivify the dust of "Honest Old Abe" and again unseal the lips that once stirred with their earnestness and eloquence the hearts of the common people. July 10, 1858, in a speech made in Chicago, he said: "Those arguments that are made, that the inferior race is to be treated with as much allowance as they are capable of enjoying; that as much is to be done for them as their condition will allow. What are these arguments? They are the arguments that kings have made for enslaving the people in all ages of the world. You will find that all the arguments in favor of King-craft were of this class: They always bastinadoed the necks of the people, not that they wanted to do it, but because the people were better off for being ridden." Thus to-day the mill owners, the street railway and other great corporations rob the people and would lay additional tariff taxes upon them, not because they want to (for themselves), but because the people are better off for being more heavily taxed.

Lincoln continues: "That is the argument, and it is the same old serpent that says 'You work and I eat'; you toil and I will enjoy the fruits of it.'

Lincoln's Warning Voice to the Laboring Men of America.

In another subsequent speech, speaking of the monarchy (which is now secretly talked of much more than it was then), he said:

"Monarchy is sometimes hinted at as a possible refuge from the power of the people. In my present position I would be scarcely justified were I to omit exercising a warning voice against returning despotism. There is one point to which I ask attention: It is the effort to place capital on an equal footing with, if not above, labor, in the structure of the Government. I bid the laboring people beware of surrendering a power which they already possess, and which, when surrendered, will surely be used to close the door of advancement to such as they, and fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of liberty shall be lost."

If there ever was a time in our history when the people should listen to that note of warning, it is now, for since the untimely death of Lincoln, fortunes have accumulated in such vast proportions as were unknown and undreamed of in his day. Millionaires and multi-millionaires have secured their wealth by processes of inflation and watering stock, by creating monopolies and other criminal means, which have become known only since the Government under a so-called policy of "protection" established the principle that it was just to tax the masses (of laborers) for the benefit of the classes (capitalists).
—delivered

Again, in an eloquent address delivered Sept. 30, 1859, before the State Agricultural Society at Milwaukee, Wis., he said:

"By some it is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital—that nobody labors unless somebody else owning capital somehow by the use of it induces him to do it. Having assumed this, they proceed to consider whether it is best that capital shall hire laborers and thus induce them to work with their own consent, or buy them and drive them to it without their consent. * * * But another class of reasoners hold to the opinion that there is no such relation between labor and capital as assumed—that there is no such thing as a free man being fatally fixed for life in this condition of a hired laborer—that both assumptions are false, and all inferences from them groundless.

"They hold that labor is prior to and independent of capital—that, in fact, capital is the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed—that labor can exist without capital, but capital never could exist without labor. Hence, they hold that labor is the superior, greatly the superior, of capital."

According to the "mud sill" theory, a blind horse upon a tread-mill is a perfect illustration of what labor should be. All the better for being blind, that he could not kick understandingly.

Let those Republicans who have made their fortunes "bestriding the necks of the common people, when they next celebrate Lincoln's birthday, with champagne and expensive wines, emblazon on their gilt edge "meau" this motto:

"Labor is the superior, greatly the superior of capital."—A. Lincoln.

Again at the close of the war the prophetic soul of Lincoln expressed itself in a letter to a friend in Illinois thus: "Yes, we may well rejoice that this cruel war has come to a close. The best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered on our country's Altar in order that our nation might live. But I see in the near future a crisis arising that unnerves me and causes me to trouble for the welfare of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow. The money power of this country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until this Republic will be destroyed. God grant that my fears may prove groundless."—Ex-Senator Ingalls, Republican Senator from Kansas.

The bones of the martyr President are not yet turned to dust before his prophecy is fulfilled. The crisis now is here! See the troubled spirit arising from his peaceful sleep to point the honest hand of reproach at the greedy conspirators! and yet again at Cincinnati, Sept. 17, 1859, he stated the pertinent fact that "Our Government was not established that one man might do with himself as he pleases and with another man, too."

How many of these hypocritical admirers of Lincoln believe and practice the principles for which he lived and died? But at last they have removed the mask by supporting one of the greatest living enemies of labor, Mark Hanna, as the dictator of the politics in America, in his conspiracy to place McKinley where the mill owners can again write their own laws for their own profit by taxing the people, and with him Hobart, the hireling and defender of criminal trusts, monopolies and corporations.

In closing this brief defense of the just principles of a just man it seems a fair inference that if alive to-day he would be joining hands with the young Western orator, Wm. Jennings Bryan, in defense of the liberties of the common people against the arrogant encroachments of the privileged classes upon them. Lincoln's warning may be further properly emphasized by recalling an utterance of the eloquent Daniel Webster, spoken in the Senate of the United States at a time when the seats were not occupied as now with attorneys of railways and other corporations. He said: "Liberty cannot long endure in any country where the tendency of legislation is to concentrate wealth in the hands of a few."

It is because the great masses of the people are beginning to realize that this danger is now here, that the very principles of Republican Government are threatened, that the Government "of the people" is already in the possession of corporate greed, that they are everywhere rallying around the standard-bearer of the new Democracy. His honesty is unquestioned. His principles are plainly stated. He has not studied in the "bosses" school equivocation and ambiguity. His defiance of the powers of greedy wealth is the first "Battle Cry of Freedom" that the people have heard in their defense since "Honest Old Abe" passed to glory, and he is now welcomed by the people as a second Lincoln, the Emancipator of 1865.

The desperation of the opponents, whose success means the passing of our government from plutocracy to a monarchy, is shown in their frantic efforts to chain that champion of liberty and labor, the great Lincoln, to their cause. That it is a dastardly slander upon the unsullied character of one of the greatest heroes of American history, as well as an assumption that the toiling freemen of this country are as ignorant as they themselves are as to Lincoln's principles and deeds, must be plain to every citizen who loves his country and would preserve to posterity and mankind its liberties.

It is a suspicious circumstance that the shouting for "sound money" and "honest dollars" is the loudest by those who have never earned an honest dollar in their lives, while those who are in favor of the restoration of silver comprise the masses of the "common" people, who have never known how to get a dollar except by honestly earning it. Are not those who have always earned their dollars honestly to be trusted in preference to those who have gotten them through trickery and dishonesty?

• and dishonesty? ERIC LOWELL

THE MAIL BAG

LINCOLN FORESAW ECONOMIC TROUBLES

Editor The News:

ETERNAL vigilance is the price of liberty and eternal struggle is necessary to its preservation.

Party fetish and prejudice, fed by Wall Street propaganda, has become so common in this country, back of it all, such sinister motives and purposes that only thinking people understand the causes of their troubles; but the great mass of citizens are made to sharply feel the vicious effects.

The power of monopoly and privilege to which I am now referring, is forcefully described by one of the noblest and greatest men of all history, Abraham Lincoln.

Just shortly before his assassination, as he was looking out of the White House window in the direction of Arlington, no doubt thinking of the awful sacrifices of the war just ended, unusually say, his eyes suffused with tears and his voice choked with emotion, his secretary observing him said, "Mr. President, what is the matter?" Listen. Ponder well his memorable words:

"I see arising before me a crisis, that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and corruption in high places. The money power will continue in its sway by appealing to the people, until all wealth is aggregated into a few hands and the Republic destroyed. I feel more anxious for the safety of my country now than ever before, even in the midst of war."

These solemn, profound and prophetic words should pierce the heart and soul of every voter, as a mortal wound inflicted by a loving friend.

Has the crisis he saw, so soon been reached? If it has not, how shall it be averted?

When the causes that lead to the rebellion are traced and considered in their proper economic sense, and the cause of the present economic crisis is analyzed and understood, what a similarity of motive and purpose is found. If these wrongs and this monopolistic power is not broken and the damages repaired in due time, the same awful consequence will follow.

Having just passed thru the vicissitudes of the civil war, the great Lincoln knew better than any other man the cause of the war and the consequences.

L. H. KENNAN.

EDITORIAL NEWS OCT 17 1924

A FAMILIAR QUOTATION.

With true Progressive generosity, Senator CUTTING, disdaining to be content with the composition of his own speeches, is willing to furnish matter to be inserted in the address which Mr. HOOVER is to make on LINCOLN'S Birthday. One passage that he recommends is "what LINCOLN said a few days before he was assassinated":

I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow. The money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the public is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless!

Such sentiments, expressed by a former corporation lawyer, are not only interesting in themselves, but because they reveal a proleptic, a prophetic, imaginative grasp of the politico-economic lingo of many earnest members of a later generation. The quotation is at least intermittently familiar. It has been turning up now and then for twenty-five years or so. It was dear to some of the Bryanites. It is a sweet morsel under the tongue for the Progressive of today. Years ago we tried to verify it in Mr. LINCOLN'S works. We have tried since. Either owing to the inefficiency of indexes or our own denseness we have never been able to do so.

Mr. CUTTING is as accurate in his scholarship as in his thought. Will he not take pity on our ignorance and tell us exactly where and when Mr. LINCOLN made these striking remarks which Mr. CUTTING would have incorporated—if he will forgive a word of such fell connotation—in Mr. HOOVER's radio speech on LINCOLN'S Birthday?

15

Fred L. Feick
Attorney-at-Law
Garrett, Ind.

February 9, 1931

Mr. Lewis W. Warren
Lincoln Life Insurance Co.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I understand that you are familiar with all the letters of Abramham Lincoln. I want to ask you where I can find a statement made by Lincoln such as this:

Dear
"Yes we may all congratulate ourselves that this cruel world is nearing a close. I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow. The money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless."

I would appreciate very much if you would forward this information to me at the earliest opportunity.

Yours very truly,

Fred L. Feick

FLF:IY

"See in the gutter"

February 14, 1931

Mr. Fred L. Feick
Garrett, Indiana

My dear Mr. Feick:

I regret this reply to your letter has been delayed due to my absence from the city.

The quotation which you have enclosed asking where you might be able to find the statement, I regret to say I cannot answer.

It does not appear to me to sound like a Lincoln utterance and I question very much whether it can be credited to Abraham Lincoln.

I have seen mention of this quotation before but no authority for calling it a Lincoln document.

Regretting I cannot be of more assistance to you, I am

Respectfully yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:LH

LOUIS T. MCFADDEN
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT
PENNSYLVANIA

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 14, 1932.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

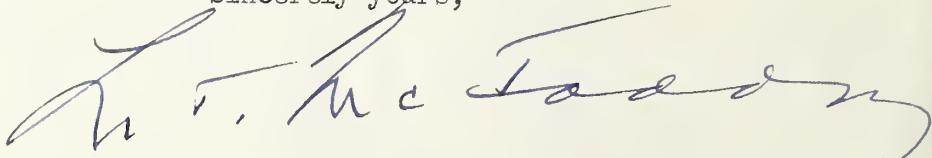
Your circular of "Lincoln Lore" is received and noted.

I recently quoted what I supposed to be a statement written by Lincoln in a letter to Elkins, and I was criticised afterwards by one of my colleagues who said Lincoln never wrote the article. It is as follows:

"Yes; we may congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing the close, but I see in the future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before in the midst of the war."

Can you tell me anything about the origin of this? It has always been accredited to Lincoln. I would appreciate hearing from you about it.

Sincerely yours,



LTM:b

March 22, 1932

Hon. Louis T. McFadden
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. McFadden:

You are not to be censured for using the quotation you forwarded in your recent letter and which has been credited to Abraham Lincoln because it has been used quite generally as having come from the president.

It is not, however, an excerpt from a Lincoln letter and it does not appear to have been an expression of Abraham Lincoln. It is not Lincoln's way of putting things. It does not sound like him.

In an editorial of October 17, 1924 I find a quotation somewhat like yours and this is the earliest use of the data which I can find now. The article signed by L. H. Keenan suggests that these words were used by Mr. Lincoln in conversation with "his secretary shortly before his assassination."

The origin of your quotation seems to have been a letter.

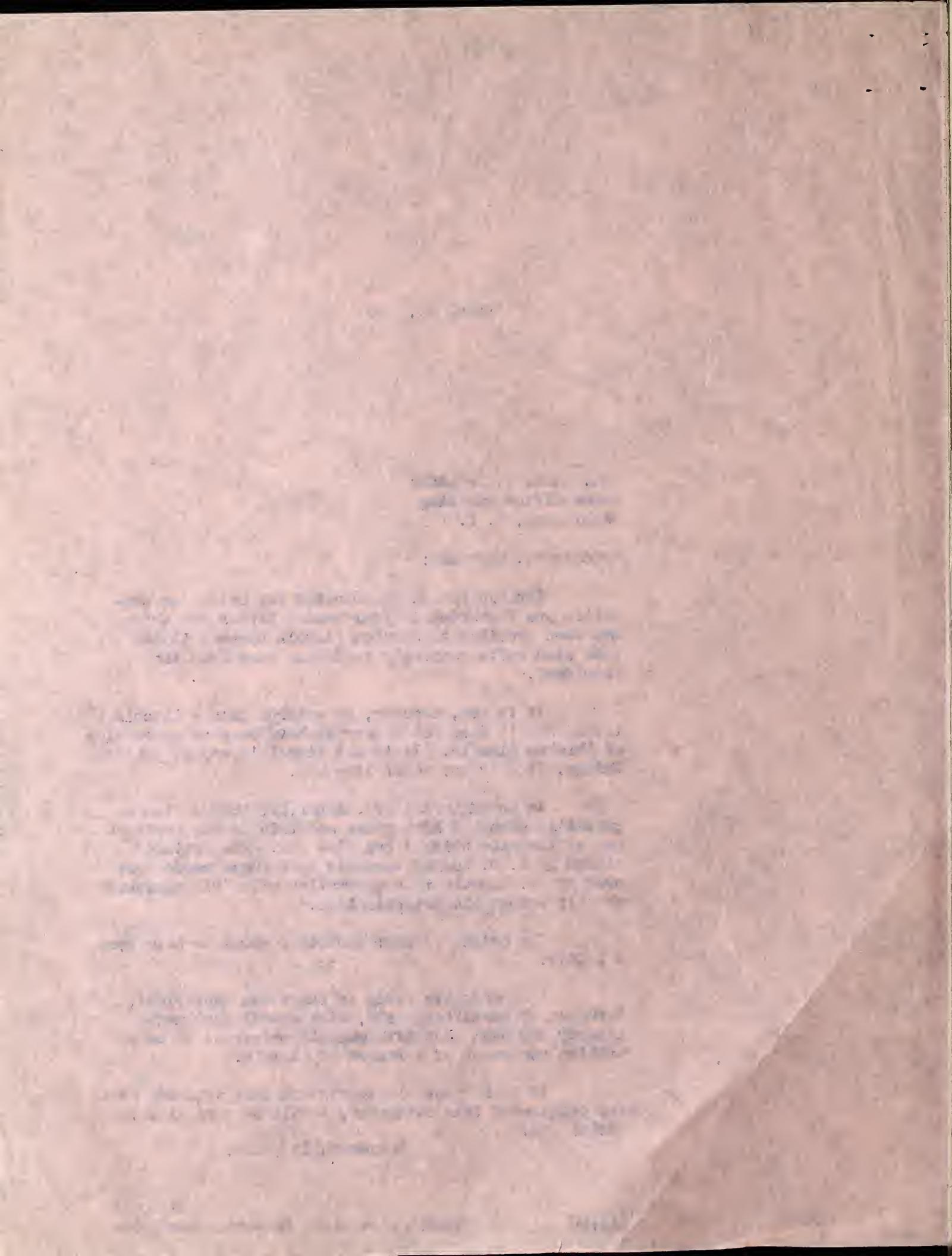
A comparative study of these two quotations, both set in quotation marks, will reveal that much liberty has been made with what this purported to be a written statement of a remark of Lincoln.

If it is possible to find further evidence as to who originated this statement, I will be very glad to advise you.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:LH

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation



(Not printed at Government expense)

Congressional Record

SEVENTY-SECOND CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WAR DEBTS AND REPARATIONS THE HOOVER MORATORIUM

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS T. MCFADDEN
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 1931

Mr. MCFADDEN. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the committee, at this hour the Ways and Means Committee of the House is taking up the discussion of the moratorium bill. I understand that the Under Secretary of the Treasury is at the present moment presenting to that committee the administration's ideas as regards the Hoover moratorium.

I am greatly indebted to the majority leadership of the House for granting me this time to discuss minutely this question of the moratorium. I desire also to observe that at this time, before the bill is under consideration in the House and before the bill has been discussed except by the presentation of the administration's plan in the Ways and Means Committee, the full force of the administration's influence is being exerted to exact the pledges of the Members of the House as to how they are going to vote on the moratorium.

The particular situation I want to mention at the outset is that at the present time the Hoover moratorium has been succeeded by the operations of the Young plan, brought about by the recent conference in Washington of the Premier of France, M. Laval, and the President of the United States. Under that plan the Germans have asked for a moratorium as provided by law, and the committees appointed under that plan by the Bank of International Settlements have been engaged for the past week in determining Germany's capacity to pay. In addition to that the committees of the international bankers are also at work studying the short-time debt situation and Germany's capacity to pay the short-term debts. It is well for you to keep in mind that there is much confusion as regards the short-term debts. The matters in which the international bankers are particularly interested at this time are the acceptance credits. Those are the short-term debts that are referred to.

On June 20, 1931, while Congress was not in session, the President of the United States, acting without any legal or official authority, for the benefit of a foreign country with which we had lately been at war, proposed and virtually brought about a loss to this country of \$245,000,000 in one single year and paved the way for much greater losses for this country to sustain in all the years that follow after. Worse than that, he proposed that the Congress of the United States should unlawfully dissipate the resources of this country by giving the money which was due to us under contract, and which should have been paid to us and of which we are the trustees for the people, to foreign nations which have no claim upon us and through them to that foreign nation with which we have lately been engaged in war. In short, he proposed that we should take money away from the men and women and children of this country and give it to Germany. This, in my opinion, was an infamous proposal.

Because it was an infamous proposal, the President of the United States endeavored to find support for his intended action. He was afraid to do this thing alone at the bidding of the German international bankers—the Warburgs; Kuhn, Loeb & Co., of New York; and their followers—all of whom have been engaged in bleeding this country white for the benefit of Germany and themselves ever since the World War came to an end. He was afraid to do it on his own responsibility, because he had no authority to do it in law, either in domestic law or in international law, in morals, in good faith, or under his constitutional oath of office. In fact, it was a violation of his oath of office and a breach of international law for him to do it at all. So, what does he do? He forgets himself and goes so far as to summon the leaders of Congress by telegraph and telephone and asks them to signify their consent to his proposed illegal action in advance. He asked them to give him their votes to sustain his illegal action. He proposed to commit an unfriendly act toward France and he asked certain members of both parties in Congress to sustain him in that course of conduct. He asked them to promise to legalize his unfriendly act. And in advance of the assembling of this Congress which alone has power to make law for this country.

Those of you who were not consulted in this crude attempt at usurpation of legislative power were in effect foreclosed in advance. You were, perhaps, men of no importance in the eyes of President Hoover. Has any President ever so far forgotten the dignity of his office and the limited place of the Executive in this Government as to do a thing like that before? Could anything be more distressing to American pride than such a message to the powers? What constitutes leadership in Congress? Does leadership mean that men of both parties from States where international bankers have their head offices can upon occasion go into a secret conference with the President of the United States, the agent of those bankers, and tell him the little fellows do not count, that they can be held in line and forced to vote "yes" when they might be expected to vote "no"?

Mr. Hoover is not running a coal mine here. He is not a dictator.

I have been here for a good many years. For the past 17 years I have been a member of the House Banking and Currency Committee. For that reason, I presume, I received a telegram last June from the President of the United States asking my consent to the course he wished to pursue. I did not answer that telegram. I am standing here as the representative of the fifteenth congressional district of my native State, and my vote has not been cast in secret upon a matter concerning which my constituents have had no information and no chance for discussion. This is the place where we make the laws. This is the place where my vote is cast for the fifteenth district of Pennsylvania. [Applause.] I do not vote on matters concerning the welfare of the United States in a telephone booth or in the office of a telegraph company. Consequently, I stand here free. I have made no bargain to vote for the proposal of the German international bankers and the deal Herbert Hoover is trying to put through for them.

But were it otherwise, had I yielded to the importunate demand of the President of the United States, had I been misled by the specious plea of urgency or by any other consideration, and had I afterwards found out what I propose to unravel for your consideration here to-day, I would not feel bound to vote in accordance with a promise that had been wrung from me by unfair means. I would take back

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

such a promise and I would examine the question on its merits and vote according to my conscience and the interests of my constituents.

Do you remember what happened in this country when President Wilson asked the voters to elect a Democratic Congress so that his policies might be put into effect? It was nothing like this bold-faced attempt to usurp legislative functions, to make a law in a small group, and then to peddle it to legislators for their approval. President Wilson's request was nothing like this, and yet the country resented it and refused it and sent us a Republican majority instead of a Democratic one.

After completing his underhanded arrangements by telegraph and telephone, arrangements which savored more of the ways of an oriental potentate drunk with power than of conduct proper for a President of the United States to pursue, Mr. Hoover, with a dramatic flourish, made his proposal, linking it as usual with a lot of false and insincere humanitarianism.

One of the most significant things about the Hoover moratorium was the suddenness with which it was proclaimed. There was nothing accidental about that suddenness, however. The present administration never makes a move of this sort without ordering a spot light beforehand. Months may go into the excited preparation of a deal, but when the moment comes to give the people an official version of what is happening the electricians are ordered to drag in the spots; the sound apparatus is sent for, and the photographers may be seen hurrying toward the White House.

Behind the Hoover announcement there were many months of hurried and furtive preparation both in Germany and in the Wall Street offices of Germany's bankers. The groundwork had to be prepared. The German budget had to be doctored and left unbalanced. Germany, like a sponge, had to be saturated with American money. Mr. Hoover himself had to be elected, because this scheme began before he became President. If the German international bankers of Wall Street—that is, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., J. & W. Seligman, Paul Warburg, J. H. Schroeder & Co.—and their satellites had not had this job waiting to be done, Herbert Hoover would never have been elected President of the United States. They helped select him. They helped elect him.

The Hoover proposal originated in the offices of the German international bankers in New York. William Randolph Hearst has lately made the following statement:

This plan for revision of war debts, with America paying the piper while war-mad Europe dances, is purely a plan of international bankers, who make money through commissions out of spoliation of their countrymen. One of those bankers wrote me the whole plan months before it was made public and asked my support of it.

I refused support and I pledged unending opposition to this plan to plunder the American people in the interests of foreign nations, for which most of these international bankers are financial agents.

[Applause.]

You will notice that Mr. Hearst says the plan was presented to him in writing by an international banker months before it was made public. This ought to convince you that it did not originate in the mind of President Hoover. It ought to convince you that it was presented to President Hoover by the same international bankers or one of his followers who presented it to Mr. Hearst and who was rebuked by Mr. Hearst for his cheek and impudence. This international banker was not rebuked by Mr. Hoover. Mr. Hoover, it appears, promised to support the plan, although in his campaign speeches and in other addresses made by him he continued to deny that he was in favor of the object of the outrageous and unpatriotic German banker propaganda for cancellation of war debts and the binding down of American labor to the task of paying the entire cost of the World War.

We have other evidence that this is true. Unknown to the President and his banker friends, an account of the plan was brought to Washington in the summer of 1930, nearly a year before the President appeared before the footlights, and, as master of ceremonies for the German international bankers, made his public announcement. If there

was a crisis in German financial affairs in July, 1931, and if there is one in those affairs now, that crisis was well arranged in advance by the German international bankers and no one in Germany took any steps to prevent its occurrence. The plan was brought to Washington and it was divulged to Senators. Closely as the secret was guarded it leaked out nearly a year in advance. This ought to convince you that it was not the result of any sudden emergency in Germany or elsewhere. This ought to convince you that it was a put-up job.

But we have other and equally convincing evidence in regard to the origin of this plan. On October 23, 1931, the German Minister of Communications, Herr Treviranus, publicly stated in Germany that President Hoover began secret conversations with Germany in regard to this plan in December, 1930. That was last December, when our people were suffering from starvation in Arkansas. That was during the last session of Congress when we were struggling to obtain help for the victims of the great drought and the depression. While our minds were occupied with those matters, while our men were walking the streets in a vain search for employment, while the suicide total was mounting, the President of the United States secretly approached Germany and asked her if he could do anything for her in the way of getting her reparations obligations lightened. The German minister, Herr Treviranus, has stated that one of the chief intermediaries in this matter died and it seems as if that chief intermediary might have been Joseph P. Cotton, who died at Baltimore this year. Herr Treviranus has stated that Hoover's negotiations were carried on with the utmost secrecy and we may well believe it.

The Public Ledger of Philadelphia published the following dispatch on October 24, 1931:

[Public Ledger Foreign Service]

GERMAN REVEALS HOOVER'S SECRET—MINISTER SAYS PRESIDENT STUDIED MORATORIUM MONTHS BEFORE ASKING IT—SLOW PAYMENT INTENDED

BERLIN, October 23.—Minister of Transportation Treviranus revealed in an address here to-night that, contrary to the general impression that President Hoover's moratorium was the result of a sudden decision, the American President was in intimate negotiations with the German Government regarding a year's debt holiday as early as December, 1930.

The President, according to Treviranus, who has long been intimate with Chancellor Bruening, did not even let his Cabinet members know what was going on. The negotiations, the German minister said, were made more difficult and the result was delayed considerably by the death of the "middle man" the first part of this year. Several of the minister's auditors recalled that the Under Secretary of State, Joseph Cotton, a personal friend and adviser of President Hoover, died about that time.

Previously it was believed that when Mr. Hoover returned from his western trip last June he learned for the first time the real seriousness of Germany's financial situation.

I might state in that connection that the hearings held by the Banking and Currency Committee a year ago last summer, when we were considering this question of the sale in the United States of commercialized German reparation loans, this same Joseph P. Cotton, now deceased, appeared before that committee and gave testimony supporting the issue and sale in this country, as did the Treasury Department, of those commercialized bonds. They were put out in this country by this same group of international bankers at 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ and they are selling now between 25 and 30.

Mr. Cotton, not in the record, but in discussion with members of the committee, at the close of the hearings, told of his interest in Germany and the fact that he had a law firm, of which he was a member, with offices located in Berlin.

Here we have the German Minister of Communications, Herr Treviranus, telling us that Hoover did not let his Cabinet officers know what he proposed to do. He worked on his plan under the guidance and at the direction of the German international bankers and he thought he had his secret so closely guarded that the people of the United States would never be able to find out his part in the plot that was being concocted against them.

Mr. STAFFORD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McFADDEN. I am sorry, but I prefer not to yield.

Mr. STAFFORD. The gentleman is making very serious charges against the President of the United States, and I

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was going to ask him the basis of his authority for stating that he was acting secretly with German international bankers.

Mr. McFADDEN. I think the gentleman will be satisfied by the time I finish.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman declines to yield.

Mr. McFADDEN. He proposed to sell us out to Germany. If he had looked about him, he would have seen on all sides the havoc that had been wrought by the exportation of American wealth to foreign countries. He could have seen mortgaged land, bare of goods, with mile-long bread lines in every city, and that havoc and that desolation and those homeless ones would have shown him that the time was ripe, that the international German bankers had got this country down, and would hold it down in the interest of Germany until it capitulated.

In January, 1931, in the city of Berlin, the Hon. Frederick Sackett, the United States ambassador, began and carried on further secret conversations with the German Government in regard to the obtaining of a moratorium for Germany. Subsequently, Sackett came to this country and looked around. He came and saw and, like a conquering hero, he went back to Berlin and told the German Government, with a diplomatic smile, that the time was auspicious. Mark that word auspicious! It was not auspicious for the people of the United States, but it was auspicious for Germany and it was auspicious for the German international bankers.

Now you have the facts and you can see how preposterous it was for the President of the United States to make a calculated entry before the footlights announcing his plan as if it were a sudden response on his part to a sudden emergency. You can see how preposterous it was for him to do that.

The 16th day of June was the date set by the German international bankers, the Bruening cabinet, Mr. Sackett, Mr. Hoover, and his associates for the opening of the great financial offensive against the American people. And how did they begin it? The head of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Otto Kahn, was in Italy in June on international financial business. The first shot was fired from Italian ground. It was in the form of propaganda—the great weapon of those who do wrong. It appeared in the form of an article in the Christian Science Monitor. I shall read it to you.

[Christian Science Monitor, June 16, 1931]

ITALY OFFERS TO EASE REICH'S HEAVY REPARATION PAYMENTS—ALTHOUGH EUROPE LOOKS TO UNITED STATES TO CUT GORDIAN KNOT OF WAR DEBTS, THIS OFFER FROM ITALIAN SOURCE ATTRACTS ATTENTION

(By radio from the Christian Science Monitor Bureau)

LONDON, June 15.—A sample of European self-help calculated, it is thought here, to make a favorable impression in the United States is a proposal of Italian origin.

The plan put forward is that those powers receiving an amount from German reparations over and above the amount necessary to discharge their debts should forego this "indemnity," thus giving Germany the necessary immediate alleviation and providing a significant gesture of moral disarmament.

The position is that, whereas Britain, on the basis of the Balance of Power note, only demanded from its debtors sufficient to cover its payments to the United States, France, Italy, and Belgium, and to a limited extent the smaller reparations creditors, receive payments from Germany markedly exceeding their payments stipulated by funding agreements to Britain and the United States.

Italy, for example, receives on an average \$53,425,000 annually on reparations account and has to pay to Britain approximately \$20,000,000 and to the United States \$22,657,000, leaving a margin of \$10,750,000, equivalent to 43,000,000 marks.

A corresponding margin exists in the receipts and payments by France and Belgium, and, therefore, any such remission would supply a handsome measure of relief to Germany's burden.

On the basis of the Spa percentages, which is the system of apportionment, France receives the lion's share of reparations, roughly 52 per cent, as compared with Italy's 10 per cent, and Belgium's 8 per cent. The annual sum accruing to France amounts to \$261,625,000.

The Italian offer in a nutshell—believed to have official approval—is, that she is prepared to waive a portion of the reparations receipts if the other beneficiaries do likewise. Its policy is exactly parallel with the position taken on disarmament, namely, Italy is prepared to cut armaments to any figure if other European powers undertake a corresponding cut.

Opposition may be expected from France on the reparations as on the disarmament issue, but if The Hague settlements and the

Young plan are to mean what they were designed to mean, namely, final liquidation of financial questions arising out of the World War, there is no doubt Italy has an unexceptionable case.

While opinion here adheres to the notion implicit in the Balance of Power note, namely, that the United States alone can cut the Gordian knot of international indebtedness, it welcomes the Italian proposal and would surely support any official move in this sense.

This article is misleading. I shall come to facts and figures presently and when I do, I will show you the contract executed by Germany in the Young law and I will show you the force of the settlement to which Germany solemnly set her hand and seal.

Now, why did Italy advertise herself at London as an international philanthropist, a canceller of debts, on June 15, 1931? She did it because she was told to do it. She did it because the German international bankers from whom she is receiving great favors at our expense in the future ordered her to do it. Mussolini is not the iron man. Otto Kahn is the metalliferous man. Mussolini is the needy man. Otto Kahn and his associates are the men who have measured Mussolini's need and who have promised to supply it if he will help them to break the contract Germany made with her creditors and which she now seeks to dishonor and to treat as a mere scrap of paper. Do you think France and her allies will permit the Young law, signed by Germany and other responsible powers, to be torn up in the German fashion of tearing up treaties and laughing at debts? France is saying no and in doing so is saying that it will be a bad day for Italy, or for any other country when it joins hands with Germany in breaking what France believes to be a legal contract and protests in setting at naught that international law which goes back through the treaty to the armistice.

Some people no doubt would have been better satisfied if Germany had whipped the United States and maimed another hundred thousand of our soldiers. Some of them think that the treaty of Versailles was not a good treaty. I share that view. The allied armies had a right to march to Berlin and the French could hardly have been blamed if they had set the torch to some of the German factories on the way. Instead of such a proceeding, the Allies made a treaty which embodied great concessions for Germany, all of which were predicated upon her expressed willingness to pay for the damage she had wrought. So far as the war is concerned, and the end of the war, I am satisfied to say that we sent our army to France for a purpose; that it achieved the purpose for which we sent it; and that the American cemeteries in France bear witness alike to our sacrifice and to our victory. I will also say that the present condition of this country and the Hoover proposal bear witness to the revenge that the German bankers have taken on us for the decisive part we took in the World War.

Over yonder across the river lies the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Hoover might almost have seen it from the window of the Lincoln study, where, with German emissaries, he planned to nullify the part our soldiers took in the World War and to set at naught the claims of our people to the money they showered upon this Government for the prosecution of the war. It seems prophetic when we remember that Lincoln wrote—and possibly in that very room—the following words:

Yes; we may congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing the close, but I see in the future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before in the midst of the war.

I am concerned now with the offensive against the French and the American people and against the friendship which has for so long existed between them. I am concerned with the German offensive as it was developed by the German international bankers. Why do I call them German international bankers? I do so because I wish to emphasize the

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fact that international finance is almost exclusively German. Most of the international bankers are of German origin.

On the very day the propaganda from London announcing Italy's heroic pose was published in the Monitor a second article appeared in that sheet. I shall read it to you.

[Special from Monitor Bureau]

UNITED STATES RESERVES RIGHT TO RECONSIDER POLICY ON WAR DEBTS

WASHINGTON, June 15.—The United States Government has an "open mind" on foreign war debts, it was authoritatively stated at the State Department Saturday, in connection with the discussions in Europe over the possibility of downward revision of the Young plan.

It was explained that the United States Government's policy on war debts and reparations is clearly established, but that in case of a serious crisis, it would "obviously have to consider temporary changes in policy, if that was necessary."

The administration is cognizant of the seriousness of the economic situation in Germany. It is keeping in close touch with developments and is fully informed of conversations going on abroad.

Initiative for action must come from European sources, however. Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of Treasury, and Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of State, are going abroad this month and will meet European leaders, but without any proposal. Their purpose is wholly informative, it is declared.

You will notice the statement in the article I have just read:

Initiative for action must come from European sources, however.

It will be interesting when this matter goes to trial before the Permanent Court of International Justice to find out whether Herbert Hoover was acting as a legal agent of Germany or as the President of the United States when he made his proposal. If he was the agent of Germany, then Germany violated the solemn covenant of the Young law by procuring his assistance. If he acted on his own initiative as the President of the United States, then I think he is personally liable to the people of this country in a legal way and that those who acted with him are liable also. We can not have an agent of Germany acting as President of the United States.

But the sting of this article is in the tail. It lets us know that Mellon and Stimson are "going abroad this month." They are going to meet European leaders. They are going without any proposal. Their purpose is wholly informative. Mark that word "informative." They are going to Europe to give information. Their purpose is informative. They were not going to Europe to rest.

When Secretaries Mellon and Stimson went abroad they did not travel to Europe on the same ship. Mr. Mellon was the first to depart. By a coincidence he arrived in England on the very day the Italian gesture was reported in the Christian Science Monitor. And here, having told you that the 15th of June was the appointed day upon which the President of the United States ordered the forces who were acting with him to begin the offensive, I will tell you why that day was selected. On the 15th of June France paid this country a large sum of money. Prudently and with a kind of low-class cunning, this payment was gathered in, although the document which was intended to deprive France of her rights under the Young law was fully prepared and ready for emission to the world powers. Do you think that act of cunning escaped the attention of foreign statesmen? Do you think it has increased their respect for the United States?

Mr. Mellon raced through the next few days at high pressure and somebody in London who appears to have been interested in the dissemination of information gave news to the press that he had been invited to come to England by the British Government. This statement was vigorously denied by the private secretary to Ramsay MacDonald, who asserted that the British Government had addressed no invitation to Mr. Mellon and that it had not sent a communication to the Government at Washington to invite it to discuss revision of war debts, or any other question.

Nevertheless, Mr. Mellon, upon his arrival in England, lost no time in entering into a secret conversation with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and with Montagu Norman, the governor of the Bank of England.

It is a little strange that Mr. Montagu Norman should have been there. As Henry de Jouvenel says, in speaking of this interview:

Among the personalities present there was one not generally invited to conferences between prime ministers and foreign statesmen. This was the governor of the Bank of England.

You all know who Montagu Norman is and how closely he is linked with certain sinister figures in the banking world. You know that he comes here occasionally and that he transacts secret business with the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. You know that he was suddenly taken ill when the old Tories in England found out what had been happening there and formed a national government and gave up the gold standard. You may remember that without allowing his name to appear on the passenger list Mr. Montagu Norman took ship for Canada and did not return to England until the storm blew over. I presume you know that the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal reserve banks are the agents of the Bank of England and that of late years Mr. Montagu Norman has had a great deal to do with George L. Harrison, governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Mr. Montagu Norman did not come down to New York from Canada during his last visit to this continent. Instead of that, Governor Harrison went up to Canada to see him.

Let us leave Mr. Mellon in London for a while and return to Washington sweltering in the heat.

It is the 16th of June. The President of the United States is spending the summer in Washington. He has been hard at work with Henry M. Robinson, who is the Colonel House of this administration, and, like Colonel House, a secret emissary of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Paul Warburg, and other German international bankers. Robinson's ostensible business is in California, but his real business is here, where he can see the President of the United States every day. Sometimes he goes to the Rapidan. Sometimes he spends several days at the White House. He passes for a Californian friend of President Hoover. I will tell you whose friend he is. He is the bosom friend and intimate of Paul M. Warburg, the man who engineered the great depression, the man who is the chief beneficiary of the losses sustained by the farmers and the wage earners of this country, the man who has stuffed this country full of worthless German acceptances, so that Germany might use them against us to trick us into breaking an international law in her behalf. More of Paul Warburg hereafter. For the present let us keep our eyes on Henry M. Robinson, the Colonel House of the present administration.

It is the 16th of June and the Monitor has published its little story about the generous Italians.

It is the 16th of June and here comes an Associated Press dispatch reading as follows:

[Washington Post, June 16, 1931]

Always holding reparations and war-debt payments as distinctly separate, the Treasury yesterday made known that recent events in Europe had caused no change in its attitude.

What recent events had caused no change in the Treasury's attitude? There had been no recent events in Europe which could have caused a change in the Treasury's attitude. This article further makes known that speculation having been aroused by Mr. Mellon's departure for Europe and by Mr. Stimson's prospective European trip, Mr. Mills, of the Treasury, and Mr. Castle, of the State Department, gave assurances that no official business was involved.

I am loath to accuse any man of toying with the truth, but candor compels me to say that, in my opinion, the assurances so given by Mr. Mills and Mr. Castle were intended to deceive the American people. Can we afford to trust our governmental business to men who lend themselves to this kind of deception?

This is a free country with what is supposed to be a free press. Whence came this custom of deceiving the people with carefully prepared misleading statements, artfully contrived releases, and all the other devices of overlordship looking down from a high place with contempt for the

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wage earner, the farmer, and the man of little or no property?

It is the night of the 16th of June in Washington. The President of the United States is out of town. That, too, was foreseen and provided for. It was a kind of alibi intended to make it easy for him to pretend that a certain crisis had come about in his absence. Now, comes the 17th of June and on that day, as if without knowledge of what was about to happen at Washington, the German ambassador to France goes to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs and to the French Minister of Finances and says that the German Government will soon be obliged to ask for a moratorium. This was a calculated move and Mr. Sackett was fully aware of it. It was done for the purpose of working on French nerves, to try to frighten and unsettle the French so that they might be startled out of their customary caution when they received the communication that the President proposed to make to them and upon which he had been hard at work with Bruening and Sackett and the Warburgs through their emissaries for so many months.

On the 18th of June the President returned to Washington from the tomb of our late President Harding, where he had just descended upon the infamy of anyone who betrayed the trust of the people in money matters. I call your attention to his words:

"BETRAYAL" IS CASTIGATED

There are disloyalties and there are crimes which shock our sensibilities, which may bring suffering upon those who are touched by their immediate results. But there is no disloyalty and no crime in all the category of human weaknesses which compares with the failure of probity in the conduct of public trust.

Monetary loss, or even the shock to moral sensibilities, is perhaps a passing thing, but the breaking down of the faith of a people in the honesty of their government and in the integrity of their institutions, the lowering of respect for the standards of honor which prevail in high places, are crimes for which punishment can never atone.

On the following day, as a part of this conspiracy, the Secretary of State, Mr. Stimson, sent for the French ambassador, Mr. Paul Claudel, and told him what the President was going to do. This, we understand, was about one hour before President Hoover gave out his statement to the newspapers.

Was this fair to the French ambassador when we know that the President had been working on this plan since the previous December; that is, December, 1930, and the plan he gives out is the one that was disclosed to William R. Hearst by an international banker several months before, that it is the same plan that was divulged here in secret to the Senators in the late summer of 1930. It is the same secret plan that the German Minister of Communications referred to in his statement which I have read to you. It was the international German bankers' plan for having the burden of reparations removed from her triumphant march toward world domination. Germany has already surpassed the United States in trade activity. She has had a favorable balance of trade every month so far this year. That can not be said of us who are asked to break the law of nations for her benefit. But the next time Mr. Hoover talked to France he had to talk on a different key. When baffled and humiliated he had to prostrate himself at the feet of Premier Laval and ask him to leave the balances of France in New York because the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal reserve banks and the international bankers and the New York bankers were headed for trouble through the loss of gold to the extent of \$1,800,000,000 and perhaps more. It was then that the President of the United States did not appeal to the German international bankers who were then engaged in speculation in international exchanges, but it was then that he did appeal to the French Premier, Laval, to save him and his country from the sequences of his folly—the effects of the Hoover moratorium.

One hardly knows which is worse, the revolting dishonesty or the shocking bad taste. Do you wonder that his announcement of his plan created a sensation in France? As one of the French editors politely said, "The declaration of President Hoover is the most disconcerting impromptu diplomatic document imaginable. Leaving aside all senti-

mental considerations, it must be admitted that this rough brick hurled at Europe runs a strong risk of upsetting the whole edifice so laboriously erected by experts and governments for the parallel settlement of reparations and war debts. The American document was transmitted to our ambassador at Washington at the very time it was being made public like a simple harangue at a campaign rally."

After President Hoover had so unceremoniously informed Ambassador Claudel that he was at the moment giving out his plan, he is said to have telegraphed to Hindenburg, the President of Germany, begging him to telegraph him with the utmost haste a German request for a moratorium. We shall hear more of Hindenburg's telegram later on.

Simultaneously with this move on the part of their agent, Hoover, the German international bankers and others who followed their lead bought heavily in the stock exchanges and this buying caused stocks to rise in price. As the editor above mentioned expressed it—

A dose of very uncommon simplicity would be needed to cause one to believe that the Anglo-German American banks, which had been preadvised of the arrangements made at Washington, did not seize the opportunity to start a financial maneuver to take place on all the world financial markets in order to give a consecration of fact to the policy of the President, obliged to reckon with the susceptibilities of the American Congress.

At this point I wish to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the French reply to Hoover's proposal.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Pennsylvania asks unanimous consent to extend his remarks as indicated. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

Mr. McFADDEN (reading):

First. Repayment to France and other creditor nations within five years by Germany of the credits to be extended to the German economic system through the Bank for International Settlements. The original idea of the French Government had been to ask for the repayment within two years.

Second. Should Germany within five years enforce the moratorium as provided for under the Young plan the guarantee fund which is provided for by the Young plan would not be paid out by France, but would be built up by making use of the untransferred unconditional annuity.

Third. Allocation of part of the credits created upon the basis of the untransferred, unconditional annuity to such European States as Yugoslavia and Greece, which might be stripped financially, owing to the suspension of payments of all intergovernmental debts, the net loss of Yugoslavia being about \$16,000,000 and of Greece £700,000.

[Here the gavel fell.]

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman 15 additional minutes.

Mr. STAFFORD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McFADDEN. I am sorry, but I have a connected statement which I want to complete. I would like to yield, but my time is limited.

Mr. STAFFORD. I see there is no trouble about the gentleman securing additional time, and I thought perhaps the gentleman would yield.

Mr. McFADDEN. If the gentleman will yield me more time to complete my address, I will then be only too glad to yield to the gentleman.

You will notice that the French in this reply expressly refused to give priority to private obligations. The bankers had endeavored to obtain this concession. President Hoover had tried to have the service on private obligations maintained. He wished to have the service on the Kreuger & Toll Swedish loan kept up. (Kreuger & Toll and the Swedish Match Trust are a Warburg outfit, but this is another chapter.) This the French refused to allow, and I call your attention to their statement that—

A formal assimilation has been established between the private debts of the Reich (Young loan and Kreuger loan) and the unconditional annuities not yet mobilized. To suspend the payment by Germany of the unconditional annuity while admitting that the Young loan placed with the public should continue to be served would go directly against a fundamental principle and express stipulations.

The Government considers, therefore, that a moral interest of the first order attaches to the fact that, even during the delay provided for by President Hoover, the payment of the unconditional annuity should not be in any way postponed.

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The Germans do not wish to pay reparations. Nobody likes to pay a bill for damages.

The whole world knows what the Germans did in France. There are districts in France which will never be as they were before. I believe that the mass of the German people were willing to pay their indemnity as France paid her indemnity after the Franco-Prussian War, but something happened to Germany which prevented the full and free execution of her obligations. I will tell you what it was. After the World War Germany fell into the hands of German international bankers. Those bankers bought her and they now own her, lock, stock, and barrel. They have purchased her industries, they have mortgages on her soil, they control her production, they control all of her public utilities. There is no country in the world to-day of which the inhabitants are so enslaved as are the Germans.

The international German bankers have subsidized the present Government of Germany and they have also supplied every dollar of the money that Adolf Hitler has used in his lavish campaign to build up a threat to the government headed by Bruening. When Bruening fails to obey the orders of the German international bankers, Hitler is brought forth to scare the Germans into submission. The German international bankers have worked up great resentment in Germany, and their hired agents have prompted the Germans to unite in order to free themselves from their war obligations. But resentment, the bankers knew, was not enough. They had to put a weapon into the hands of Germany which could be used against the society of nations in general and against the United States in particular. They conceived the idea of robbing us by stealth, by fraud, and by trickery, and they have succeeded. Through the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal reserve banks over thirty billions of American money over and above the German bonds that have been sold here has been pumped into Germany. When these Federal reserve loans began, Germany used to repay them. She established herself as a fairly good risk. Then her borrowings became larger and larger. You have all heard of the spending that has taken place in Germany. You have heard of her new modernistic dwelling houses, her great planetariums, her gymnasiums, her swimming pools, her fine public highways, her perfect factories. All this was done on our money. All this was given to Germany through the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal reserve banks, and, what is worse, Federal reserve notes were issued for it.

A Federal reserve note is an obligation of the United States and here you have a banking system which has financed Germany from start to finish with the Federal reserve notes and has unlawfully taken from the Government and the people of the United States. The Federal Reserve Board and the Federal reserve banks have pumped so many billions of dollars into Germany that they dare not name the total. I have repeatedly asked the Federal Reserve Board to send me a list of the acceptance credits granted by the accepting banks of this country by and with the consent of the Federal Reserve Board, and they have not. They can not and they dare not divulge the total. This is the Congress of the United States, but you have no information concerning the amount of Federal reserve currency that has been issued for the benefit of Germany on trade bills or acceptances. How, then, do you propose to proceed? Are you going to throw away our resources under the debt settlements we have with foreign nations in order to help Germany do that which is forbidden on the Constitution of the United States? Are you going to make this Government a defendant in a million suits for damages brought on American citizens, whose property you propose to throw away?

Do you know that Germany has been lending our money to Soviet Russia as fast as she could get it out of this country from the Federal Reserve Board and banks? Do you know that she is the author of the 5-year plan; that she has armed and supplied Soviet Russia with our money? Do you know that Germany and Soviet Russia are one in military and industrial matters? Do you know that Germany is well

armed and that we paid for her rifles and uniforms, her commercial trucks which can be converted for military uses inside of 24 hours? She leads the world in aviation. Why not, when the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal reserve banks have been secretly financing her for years. I challenge the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal reserve banks to come in here and submit to an examination and an audit of their accounts. Do you know that the Federal Reserve Board and Federal reserve banks have also been financing Soviet Russia and that Russia owes her an immense sum, of which \$150,000,000 is due by January 1, 1932, and that Russia has no money wherewith to pay it and will presumably be unable to pay it?

There are 9,000 German officers in the Russian Army. The Krups are manufacturing war munitions in Moscow, and the manufacture is going on day and night. Thousands of armored trucks and tractors, currently used in Germany for commercial purposes, are convertible into war tanks within 60 hours. But the most important activities are in the fields of aviation and chemistry. The Germans and Russians are working unremittingly on war gas and war flame in soviet-owned laboratories.

In addition to their debt to us, Soviet Russia has borrowed 535,000,000 reichsmarks from Germany, and that was our money, too. For the first nine months of this year Russian orders to German manufacturers amounted to 851,000,000 reichsmarks more than the entire amount Germany is legally bound to pay to France. These Russian orders, which, roughly speaking, amount to about \$202,620,000, were for general machinery, tool machines, and electrical supplies. Do you not think that Germany is doing a handsome business on the free paper Federal reserve notes unlawfully given from this Government for her benefit?

You have been informed that there is an alternative before the United States—that Germany will pay her commercial obligations if we effect her release from the payment of reparations. I say that Germany will not pay her commercial obligations. I say that the Federal reserve banks have purchased and rediscounted false, worthless, fictitious, and uncollectible acceptances drawn in Germany, and that those false papers are in the vaults of the Federal reserve banks, in the vaults of the designated depositaries as security for money taken from the citizens of this country by taxation, and in other banks, and I say that they are worthless. It is a mere figure of speech to call them frozen assets. They are dead losses. The Government's money in the designated depositaries is gone, leaving nothing but this worthless paper behind it. The Hoover proposal has already cost us \$1,500,000,000 in gold credit. How much more are we going to throw away? For my part, I say, "Not one cent." "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute."

We were called to the White House on October 6, and the President told us we were facing a national emergency. What was the emergency? It was a condition brought about by Herbert Hoover himself when he agreed to put this scheme across for the benefit of the international German bankers who control this country through the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal reserve banks.

Last year there was some inquiry into the Federal Reserve Board and banks, and George L. Harrison, governor of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, was asked to state the amount of acceptances purchased by the Federal reserve banks in foreign countries. He was unwilling to answer in public. He was permitted to answer in secret. Why was that? It was because the Federal Reserve Board and banks are the duly appointed agents of the foreign central banks of issue and they are more concerned with their foreign customers than they are with the people of the United States. The only thing that is American about the Federal Reserve Board and banks is the money they use. The money is American but the contacts are European.

Who gave the Federal Reserve Board and banks the right to permit the German international bankers to loot this country and to take everything we had away from us? I say we will have an audit of these accounts and every Federal reserve bank and every director will be held liable for

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his acts in so far as he has been responsible for the exportation of American wealth to other countries and for the redistribution of wealth which has taken place in this country.

Do you think the stock-market collapse was accidental or, as some wiseacres say, that the American people changed their minds overnight? It was not accidental. It was a carefully contrived occurrence, and it was a part of this same Hoover moratorium which was the first move of the drive to cancel debts. The international bankers sought to bring about a condition of financial despair and anarchy here so that they might emerge as the rulers of us all, and the next step they hope to take with Hoover's assistance is the establishment of a new kind of war finance corporation under the control of the notorious short seller, Bernard Baruch, or another of the same stripe. Then you will see fascism here instead of the Constitution of the United States; then you will see a dictator controlling industry and production as we now have a dictatorship controlling money and credit. Do you want that to happen? No? Then you had better watch the manner in which you are being led by Mr. Hoover with his explanations as to where his leadership is taking you and the other people of this country.

[Here the gavel fell.]

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman 15 additional minutes.

Mr. McFADDEN. I thank the gentleman.

Now, let us consider the Young law, which this moratorium will break for the benefit of Germany. After the war came the treaty of Versailles. Whether it was good or bad is beside the point. It was Germany who asked for an armistice. It was Germany who was defeated. The treaty is what saved Germany. But was Germany completely honorable in her observance of that treaty? She was not. The world reechoed to her lamentations. Her propaganda kept up its work. When the Germans depreciated their currency they wiped out their internal debt. The losses in this country were enormous. So, too, were the losses in France.

At the present time the public debt of Germany is the least of the debts of the large European countries. By manipulation of her currency Germany freed herself of her internal debt. This is less than the other nations have to pay on their public debts. The other nations have already paid the internal public debt of Germany when they had their holdings of German currency wiped out by the manipulations of German bankers.

If Germany had sustained the burden of her own debt, as the Allies have done, and not obliterated it by inflation she would have had to raised 4,500,000,000 to 5,000,000,000 per annum in addition to her domestic expenditure. This would make it both just and practicable to add a provision in her budget which should bear some correspondence to the provision made in the Allies' budgets for their war expenditure.

Let us now consider the payments which are lawfully due from Germany under the Young law. Under this law Germany is required at the present time to pay a yearly annuity of 1,685,000,000 reichsmarks; of this amount France receives about half, or exactly 838,400,000 reichsmarks. This amount so payable to France divides into two classes: First, there is the conditional annual payment which amounts to 338,400,000 reichsmarks; secondly, there is the unconditional annual payment which amounts to 500,000,000 reichsmarks. The unconditional sum is subject to a heavy deduction for service of the amount already mobilized—Young bonds, and so forth. That amount is 44,500,000 reichsmarks. This leaves the unconditional amount for France at 455,500,000 only. Now, of this sum France has to take 80,000,000 reichsmarks and add it to the conditional amount in order to meet her payments to England and the United States. That leaves her an unconditional sum of 375,000,000 reichsmarks.

France receives no punitive damages under the Young law. The unconditional payments represent for France less than half of the interest on the sum she has had to expend for the reconstruction of the devastated regions. It seems not unreasonable, therefore, for the French to say that no arbiter and no court of international justice would tolerate such an indignity as the suppression or cancellation of these

unconditional payments which are lawfully due to her. At this point I wish to insert in the RECORD a copy of Annex I of the Young plan.

ANNEX I

Exchange of declaration between the Belgian, British, French, Italian, and Japanese Governments on the one hand, and the German Government on the other.

The representatives of the Belgian, British, French, Italian, and Japanese Governments make the following declaration:

The new plan rests on the principle that the complete and final settlement of the reparation question is of common interest to all the countries which this question concerns, and that the plan requires the collaboration of all these countries. Without mutual good will and confidence the object of the plan would not be attained.

It is in this sense that the creditor Governments have, in The Hague agreement of January, 1930, accepted the solemn undertaking of the German Government to pay the annuities fixed in accordance with the provisions of the new plan as the guaranty for the fulfillment of the German Government's obligations. The creditor Governments are convinced that, even if the execution of the new plan should give rise to differences of opinion or difficulties, the procedures provided for by the plan itself would be sufficient to resolve them.

It is for this reason that The Hague agreement of January, 1930, provides that under the régime of the new plan the powers of the creditor powers shall be determined by the provisions of the plan.

There remains, however, a hypothesis outside the scope of the agreements signed to-day. The creditor governments are forced to consider it without thereby wishing to cast doubt on the intentions of the German Government. They regard it as indispensable to take account of the possibility that in the future a German government, in violation of the solemn obligation contained in The Hague agreement of January, 1930, might commit itself to actions revealing its determination to destroy the new plan.

It is the duty of the creditor governments to declare to the German Government that if such a case arose, imperiling the foundations of their common work, a new situation would be created in regard to which the creditor governments must, from the outset, formulate all the reservations to which they are rightfully entitled.

However, even on this extreme hypothesis, the creditor governments, in the interests of general peace, are prepared, before taking any action, to appeal to an international jurisdiction of uncontested authority to establish and appreciate the facts. The creditor power or powers which might regard themselves as concerned would therefore submit to the Permanent Court of International Justice the question whether the German Government had committed acts revealing its determination to destroy the new plan.

Germany should forthwith declare that, in the event of an affirmative decision by the court, she acknowledges that it is legitimate that in order to insure the fulfillment of the obligations of the debtor power resulting from the new plan, the creditor power or powers should resume their full liberty of action.

The creditor governments are convinced that such a hypothetical situation will never in fact arise, and they feel assured that the German Government shares this conviction. But they consider that they are bound in loyalty and by their duty to their respective countries to make the above declaration in case this hypothetical situation should arise.

The representatives of the German Government, on their side, make the following declaration:

The German Government takes note of the above declaration of the creditor governments whereby even if the execution of the new plan should give rise to differences of opinion or difficulties in regard to the fulfillment of the new plan, the procedures provided for in the plan would be sufficient to resolve them.

The German Government take note accordingly that under the régime of the new plan the powers of the creditor powers will be determined in accordance with the provisions of the plan.

As regards the second part of the declaration and the hypothesis formulated in this declaration, the German Government regrets that such an eventuality, which for its part it regards as impossible, should be contemplated.

Nevertheless, if one or more of the creditor powers refer to the Permanent Court of International Justice the question whether acts originating with the German Government reveal its determination to destroy the new plan, the German Government, in agreement with the creditor governments, accepts the proposal that the Permanent Court should decide the question, and declares that it acknowledges that it is legitimate, in the event of an affirmative decision by the court, that in order to insure the fulfillment of the financial obligations of the debtor power resulting from the new plan the creditor power or powers should resume their full liberty of action.

The French, German, and English texts of the present annex are equally authoritative.

CURTIUS.	HENRY CHERON.
WIRTH.	LOUCHEUR.
SCHMIDT.	A. MOSCONI.
MOLDENHAUER.	A. PIRELLI.
HENRY JASPAR.	SUVICH.
PAUL HYMANNS.	ADATCI.
E. FRANCQUI.	K. HIROTA.
PHILIP SNOWDEN.	

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

As you see, under the Young law, the French, acting singly or with others of the following powers—that is, British, Belgian, Italian, Japanese—can appeal to the Permanent Court of International Justice, where, upon a showing that Germany had committed itself to actions revealing its determination to destroy the Young plan, the French and other nations would, by a decree in their favor, have full liberty of action restored to them. Of course, Germany was guilty of those actions by using the President of the United States as an agent instead of acting for herself, according to the procedure laid down in the Young law, which procedure was binding upon her. After the visit of Premier Laval to this country President Hoover agreed that whatever is done must take place within the structure and pro-

visions of the Young law, consequently there is no use in hoping for the Hoover moratorium now. It is a dead letter. It will do nobody any good and it will do the United States a great deal of harm.

In discussing this matter in the French Parliament, Premier Laval said:

But, given the nature of the engagements, freely accepted and quite recently subscribed to, of the Young plan, the solemnity with which the definitive and unalterable character of the unconditional annuities by which the necessary permanence of the principle of reparations is expressed was recognized, there would be great risk of upsetting confidence in the value of signatures and of contracts and thus to go against the end aimed at if, in the proposed suspension of payments, the unalterable annuity were treated like the conditional annuity.

92838-7453

Land and Freedom

FORMERLY THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

VOL. XXXIV

MAY—JUNE, 1934

No. 3

Comment and Reflection

CHAS. S. PRIZER, a subscriber and well-known Single Taxer of this city gifted with some imagination, writes us as follows: "Your quotation from alleged remarks of Abraham Lincoln on the land question is the most sensational news of the year. I wish to believe that the quotation is authentic but I respectfully ask you to produce proof of its authenticity. Hundreds of biographers have for many years prosecuted an unremitting and most intensive search for data on Lincoln. How is it that a recorded declaration more important, more fundamental than any other ever made by Lincoln on any economic question has remained so long undiscovered and unknown?"

TO refresh our readers' minds with the memorable words of Abraham Lincoln cited in March-April LAND AND FREEDOM we again quote them:

"The land, the earth God gave to man for his home, sustenance and support, should never be the possession of any man, corporation, or unfriendly government, any more than air or water, if as much."

THEN followed our comment:

Lincoln saw the land question. He would have dealt with it in the big way. To him there was no such thing as property in land any more than in air or water.

He had no doubt of the principle he laid down. Of the method to be pursued he was not so certain. He said: "A reform like this will be worked out some time in the future." He knew the movement would meet with opposition and he knew the kind of opposition it would meet. Very forcibly he says:

"The idle talk of idle men that is so common now, will find its way against it, with whatever force it may possess, and strongly promoted and carried on as it can be by land monopolists, grasping landlords, and the titled and untitled senseless enemies of mankind everywhere." Thus spoke the Prophet-President!

FOR our authority for these statements of Lincoln we are indebted to a work in two volumes by Robert H. Browne, M. D., "Abraham Lincoln and the Men of His Time." For the discovery of this remarkable revelation we are indebted to W. D. Lamb, of Chicago. The work is little known though it is in the Jersey City library of which the brother of the editor of LAND AND FREEDOM, Edmund W. Miller, is librarian.

DR. ROBERT H. BROWNE was born in New York, was an abolitionist associated with Lovejoy and read law with Davis, Lincoln and Gridley at Bloomington, Ill. He was an assistant surgeon in the war of 1861 to its close, and after the war practiced medicine in Kirksville, Mo. He was a member of the Missouri State Senate 1870 to 1874. We do not find a record of the date of his death.

LINCOLN was early employed in Danville and Springfield in helping the settlers in their struggles against the extortions and stealings of the land sharks. His name was a terror to the infamous crew who as soon as a settler filed his claim filed counter claims and compelled the bona fide settlers to yield up a fee to retain their land and thus save litigation. "I respect," said Lincoln, "the man who properly named these villains land sharks. They are like the wretched ghouls who follow a ship and fatten on its offal."

THROUGH this early experience Lincoln was learning the land question. It is to be remarked, too, that he had more than a merely dim perception of the evils of land speculation. Because one cannot be a voluntary beneficiary of an evil institution and maintain the same attitude toward it, he shrank, with a moral instinct that was a part of the genius of the man, from direct participation in it. Offered the opportunity by his friend Gridley, eager to help him, of the purchase of a quarter section of land, which his friend assured him would double in value in a year, Lincoln said:

"I am thankful to you and appreciate what you do for me in so many unselfish ways that no one knows save myself. Nevertheless, I must decline this kind offer of yours, which would no doubt profit me and harm no one directly as I view it. I have no maledictions or criticisms of those who buy, sell and speculate in land, but I do not believe in it, and I feel for myself that I should not do it. If I made the investment it would constantly turn my attention to that kind of business, and so disqualify me from what seems my calling and success in it, and interfere with the public or half-public service, which I neither seek nor avoid."

LINCOLN saw the oppression to which the masses of men were everywhere subjected. That keen brain and tender heart were alive to the sufferings of mankind due to economic injustice. That he would have led

the movement for the restoration of the rights of men to the earth they inhabit, and that he would have brushed aside the subtleties of those who oppose it and gone straight to the heart of the problem, is clear from what he had to say, and from what we know of the statesmanlike courage and the peculiar directness of that keen and penetrating intellect. But the question of chattel slavery lay like a stone in the way. That removed, the monster of land monopoly was to be overthrown. And that there may be no doubt of the keenness of his apprehension of the nature of that struggle, the following words in connection with what we have already quoted furnish conclusive proof:

"On other questions there is ample room for reform when the time comes; but now it would be folly to think we could undertake more than we have on hand. But when slavery is over and settled, men should never rest content while oppression, wrongs and iniquities are in force against them."

IT is pleasant to know that the spirit and mind of Lincoln are of us and with us. He was a man who dealt with elemental things. He saw the land question, saw it clearly; he saw the miseries that come from treating land as unrestrained private property; he would have dealt summarily with the evil institution, and in this he expected to have the opposition of the senseless enemies of mankind everywhere.

IT would be a task ungracious to the memory of Lincoln to point out any shortcomings in his statements on the land question. He was not an economist. Undoubtedly, when he used the word "possession" he used it in the sense of "ownership." His practical mind would readily have seen that any system of land tenure designed to secure the right of man to the land, which he declared was as much a right as that to "air and water," must include at the same time the right of private possession—security of occupancy. This requirement the Single Tax, or the taking of the economic rent for public purposes, insures.

SIXTY-SIX governments are now devoted to economic nationalism—most all, including our own, to experiments within themselves that take no note of the international dependence of these units one upon another. The old doctrine to secure any kind of cooperation between nations is now thrust into the discard. Adam Smith and the old political economy are out-dated. Cobden and John Bright are forgotten. Cordele Hull is the only hopeful note in the administration's mixed chorus worth listening to, and his is a voice crying in the wilderness. All else is chaos.

OUT of the weltering mass of incoherent doctrine in which the common man is the helpless victim of governmental experiment, war looms as a very imminent

probability. National and racial hatreds burn afresh, and are fed by the blundering ignorance of political leaders seeking temporary advantage. The discontented masses who have no rights in the land they inhabit, who are interlopers and intruders on the earth, afford plastic material for the cruel machinations of designing demagogues, of whom all governments seem more or less composed. The landless man may live only by sufferance of the earth-owner. He is the helpless victim of every rascally government that seeks to exploit him.

LET us not disguise it. They who own the earth own the men upon it. The man without land is a helpless slave to whoever cracks the whip. No silly laws of regulation, no benevolent intentions though accompanied by kindly smiles and soothing words, are of any use. There is no freedom where men are not free to use the earth. All else is mockery.

AND the way to perfect freedom is to take the economic rent of land and abolish all taxes. How often must this be said? Nature has provided a way. Civil as we may about natural law, it is a significant manifestation of such law when, as the needs of government arise, a value arises simultaneously to meet them. And in exact proportion to these needs.

NOTE how the real rights of property are involved. Men feel that what they earn is theirs. We would take nothing due to the exertion of labor and capital. But from the exercise of labor and capital a bye-product arises, nature's contribution to the national treasury—land value. That comes ear-marked as a governmental contribution created by government to pay for government. It is so plain that the man who runs can read.

NOR is it an irreverent connotation to link this law with the law of God. "God wills it" may well be the cry of the New Crusade. To see God's hand working in the social arrangements of men is to see his hand in other manifestations. God's in His Heaven and all may be right with the world—if we but follow His Law. With that faith comes the vision of a society in which God's Law shall govern and the progress of man move steadily to its goal—for if there be not design in the universe, if God is not trifling with His creatures, if He is not mocking them with ineffectual dreams, then there is indeed a land of promise for mankind at the end of his long journey.

WHEN Robert Louis Stevenson wrote one of his baby rhymes

"The world is so full of a number of things
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings,"
he was of course in error. We cannot all be as happy as

Dr. F. Melton Butler
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Ultra-Violet Ray Solarium
411 REPUBLIC BUILDING
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Seattle 6-6-34

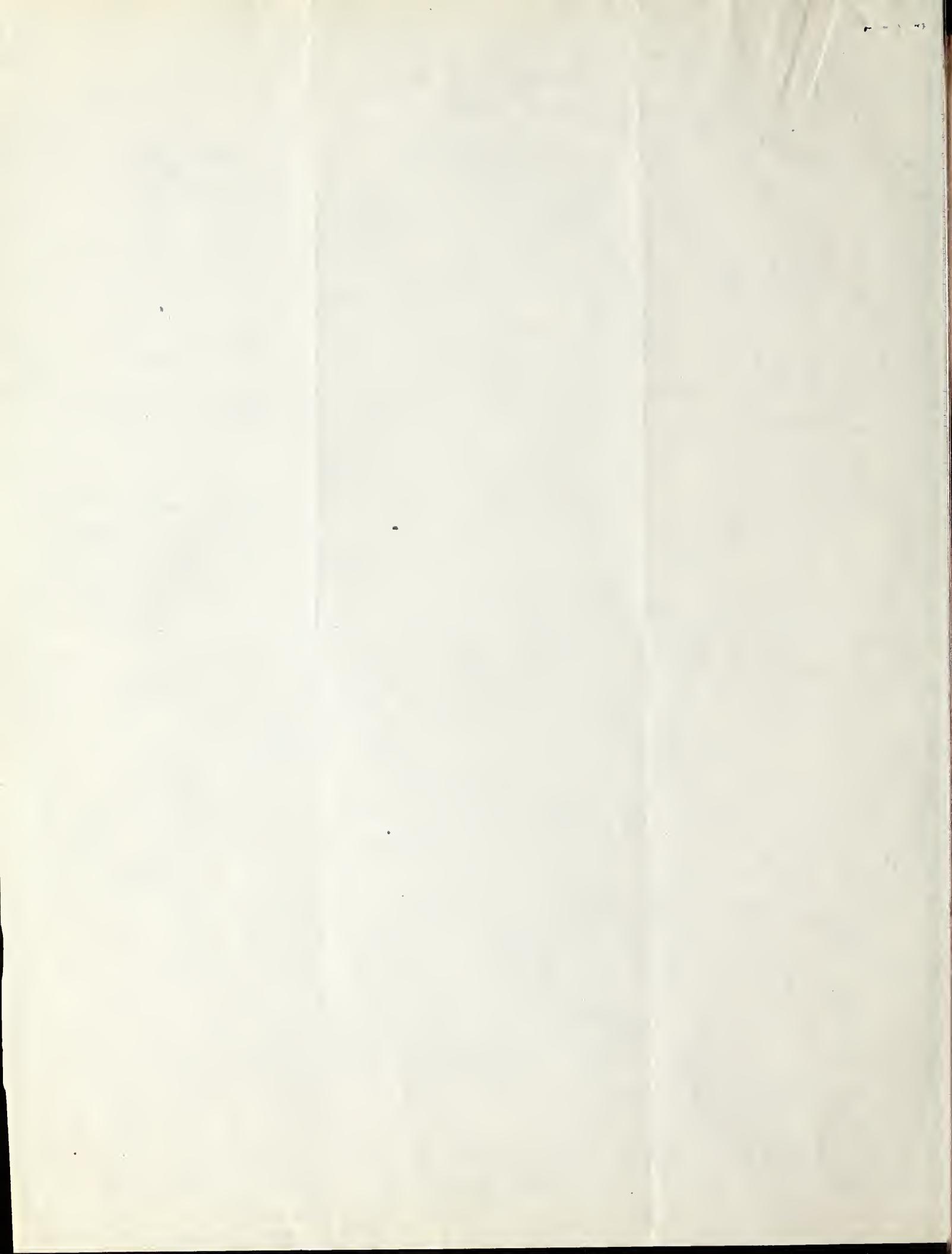
Dr Louis A Warren:-
% Lincoln Ntl Lf Dr Co
Fort Wayne Ind.

Dear Dr Warren:-

At the suggestion of Judge Walter M. Beals,
of Olympia, Wash. I am writing to ask if you
can give me the source or origin of the enclosed
Lincoln speech or letter. I have not been able
to authenticate it although it is greatly quoted
in whole or in part.

Mr Beals also suggests that you may be
able to put one on the mailing list of "Lincoln's Lore"
and I will greatly appreciate this as well as the
above favor if you can accomplish either.

Thanking you for your trouble & hoping
to hear from you soon I am
Yours very truly
F. M. Butler,



June 19, 1934

Dr. F. Melton Butler
519 Medical Arts Bldg.
Seattle, Washington

My dear Dr. Butler:

The inquiry about the prophecy of Abraham Lincoln which you enclosed and which begins with the following quotation "I see in the near future a crisis approaching, etc." has often been submitted to us. We have never been able to find any authority for it and it is now the opinion of nearly all Lincoln students that it is a forgery. We would be interested indeed to know from what article your excerpt was taken as this may help us to find the original statement.

In 1896 a book was published in Los Angeles by Capt. F. Nicoblette under the title "A gold conspiracy on the worst financial system in the world, how the bankers get rich and all others get poor."

On page 33 of this book you will find a part of the quotation you have submitted crediting the paragraph to Lincoln.

In the Congressional records of the 72nd Congress, First Session, Tuesday, December 15, 1931, Hon. Louis T. McFadden also used the reference.

We had some correspondence with Mr. McFadden about this paragraph and our inability to find any reference in Lincoln's writings to it.

I believe I can feel safe in saying that the larger portion, if not all of it, is a forgery.

Dr. F. Melton Butler

-2-

June 19, 1934

If we can find anything further about the origin of this statement we should be very happy to take the matter up with you.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:LH

Director

10-26
OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON

January 11 1956

Dear Sir:

Your letter of December 27, relative to a letter "supposed to have been written by Abraham Lincoln to Wm. F. Elkin, under date of November 21, 1864", quoted in Shibley's book on "The Money Question", has had the interested attention of the Chief of the Division of Manuscripts.

According to his report, there seems to be no real support for the assertion that Lincoln ever wrote the letter which Shibley purports to quote. His memorandum is enclosed, for your information.

Very truly yours,

Jessie S. Farnum
Secretary
(For the Librarian)

(1 enclosure)

Mr. Slade of our staff reports that we have had previous occasions to seek out the source of these words but have never succeeded, and never have found anything to indicate that Abraham Lincoln used them. Miss Helen Nicolay, in her book "Personal Traits of Abraham Lincoln" (New York, the Century Company, 1919), says that her father, John G. Nicolay, who was private secretary to President Lincoln, "once made a list of a dozen or more spurious quotations and allegations concerning Lincoln; but the one he was most often called upon to deny, was this", - that is, the passage which is the subject of the present inquiry.

Mr. H. E. Barker
1922 South Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, California

For more on H.E. Barker's research on Lincoln's views and quotations on money, see Barker papers in Collectors' Correspondence papers, available in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

For contact information, visit www.LincolnCollection.org

5
**THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY**

**LINCOLN NATIONAL
PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT**
Referred to _____

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

REC'D APR 13 1937

Answered _____

PORTLAND OFFICE

LIFE INSURANCE CO.

TO Dr. L. Warren,
Lincoln Foundation,
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.

DATE April, 10, 1937.

SUBJECT

Dear Doctor Warren;

The attached was handed to me today, am forwarding on to you
for your information.

I am not interested in paying for amount suggested to cover
the issuance of materials mentioned. If you have any suggestions,
please pass them on to me.

Kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



s. General Agent.



THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB OF PORTLAND, OREGON

JOSEPH P. SPENCER - - - President
H. G. PARKER - - - Secretary-Treasurer
317 AMERICAN BANK BUILDING

April 9, 1937.

Mr. George B. Schwieger
General Agent, Lincoln Nat'l. Life
603-604 Yeon Bldg.
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Schwieger:

You will find enclosed a copy of this letter and one of the sheets we have published. These we would like to have you submit to your Dr. Warren.

We have the privilege of adding more sheets to this paper and if the Lincoln National life would like to print one of them we are sure the material they would use would get effective distribution. To meet postal rulings it must go in headed and paged as a sheet of this little but widely circulated newspaper. Our heading and theirs as contributors in the order indicated.

We surely believe in life insurance and welcome their name and a chance to share results with them. If arrangements for this are consummated we will have a Lincoln minded people for them as well as ourselves.

The paper is a weekly being mailed each Friday and materials must be inserted Thursday so we deliver these prepared sheets Wednesday.

We greatly appreciate the leaflets you have given us and the cut you loaned us for the above picture.

Final arrangement for the expense will be made after we hear from you. As a favor from the club member who publishes The Sunnyside Gazette our insertion is made for one dollar a week another member does the printing and furnishes the paper cheaply. We thus provide 800 sheets to the Gazette which is distributed throughout Portland and to an extent throughout the U. S. A. It and only one other of the small Portland papers distributes on the pound rate. *Joseph P. Spencer, Pres.*
Sincerely H. G. Parker - Secretary

The Abraham Lincoln Public Speaking Club

WAS LINCOLN RIGHT SELECTED

One of the most astonishing things in the world of letters is the way that brilliant men and seeming scholars claim to discover that men who have moved the world are, after all, only myths. One of the latest of these wonderful discoveries, as to well established history, is interesting; for we are told by one of our great dailies that the prophecy uttered by Lincoln at the time of the signing of the National Bank bill in 1863 was just a myth; that there was no evidence that he ever said it; that it did not occur in his writings; and in fact, was never uttered.

How fooled the clerks in Congress must have been, since the prophecy is first found in Lincoln's message to Congress in 1863. The first paragraph being as follows.*

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all the wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of our country than ever before, even in the midst of the war. God grant that my forebodings may be groundless."

There are three other paragraphs even longer than the first. The first dealing with the tendency of centralizing of riches to lead to monarchy. The second dealing with the natural law—"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread"—which is the inevitable drift away from justice and honor if we allow some to live off of the labor of others without a return. The last is an

appeal to the laws of justice and the benevolence of God for everyone to bear his part. The first is that part of it which has become enshrined in the hearts of the people, so we have quoted it.

But the use of it was not confined to the message to Congress, as it was first used at the time of the signing of the National Bank Act, which Lincoln did his best to avoid. But because of the fact that the government was almost on the financial rocks; this having been brought about by a gang of banker traitors in New York, led by Southerners who had been employed by the Bank of England for that very purpose (we shall see this further), Secretary Chase of the Treasury finally persuaded the President to sign. After the signing, the President erected himself, threw the pen on the floor, and delivered the quoted prophecy. He felt so deeply that he would not talk further of the matter but went to the window and gazed out over the city while the group of bankers and the secretary retired. Later, after a coup by the bankers who drained almost forty millions out of the treasury as a result of the law, Secretary Chase wrote his regrets and an acknowledgement that the President had been right, to friends who have preserved the letter.

But why did Lincoln feel so badly about signing the bill? In a very delightful and painstaking bit of history written by Elbridge S. Brooks, written especially for boys, we find the record of the first speech ever delivered by Lincoln as a political candidate. The occasion being the campaign in which he first ran for the legislature of Illinois, in 1840. Called upon by his friends and neighbors, he arose and said, "Gentlemen and fellow citizens; I presume you all know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by many friends to become a candidate for the legislature. My politics are short and sweet, like

the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a National bank; I am in favor of the internal improvement system and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected, I shall be thankful; if not it will all be the same."

Bear in mind that this was a state election. Why did he drag in a national question about the bank as the major principle of his candidacy? I'll tell you. This was over twenty years before anybody thought of the National Banks as they came to be later. He had in mind the campaign waged by Jackson and the setting up of branch treasuries that saved the country as it's banks. A real government bank. No wonder he was gloomy and distraught about this private thing that had the power to wreck the nation and really did turn over our money affairs to a gang of "gold bugs" and foreign credit racketeers.

You want to know why I say that about the established order of banking? Just listen a moment while I tell you of the thing that made Secretary Chase lament to a friend that the thing turned out the way it did.

As soon as the National Bank act was working, the financiers of the South had to get out because Grant, Sherman and Butler were making it too hot for them. One of them, a Mr. Lyons, became a special agent for the Bank of England, (under cover), with offices in Montreal, Canada. With this as his base he moved into New York and began to spin his web to paralyze the government by causing riots and draining gold out of circulation. He succeeded so well that "Black Friday" with its riots resulted. Then he began to lay his plans to defeat the President in the election then coming up, by starting to boom General McClellan for the job. August Belmont bet \$1000.00 that Lincoln would be beaten and gold would go to 300. The conspiracy became so immense that the President and cabinet were forced to act in

The Abraham Lincoln Public Speaking Club

self defense. This they did by calling General Benj. F. Butler from the front, and giving him an open commision to stop it. Ben, with a regiment, moved secretly into New York and to all practical purposes put the city under martial law and notified the conspirators that "If they did not sell their gold at the market price and give up their efforts to corner gold, he would come down into Wall Street with a guard and see if he could not decorate the city by ornamenting the lamp posts with a few traitors." This conspiracy was the first effect of the National Banking act, which Lincoln saw so clearly as to make the prophecy about.*

But there was another conspiracy that followed almost immediately. A Mr. Clarendon, representing the Bank of England, arrived in New York about sixty days after the signing of the act, bringing a million dollars in gold. He took offices near the treasury building and proceeded to get busy. He first exchanged gold for the currency of the times at 30 cents on the dollar—it being at a discount. With the debased currency he bought, at par, 520 government bonds, bearing 6% interest, payable in gold in advance. This brought him \$3,330,000.00 in bonds and drew, at once, \$199,000.00 interest in gold. With this gold he repeated the process, resulting in giving him \$666,600.00 in bonds and 39,996.00 interest in gold. He repeated the performance again, resulting in giving him \$26,664.00 with \$1,599.00 in gold. He repeated twice more, resulting in his having \$4,164,916.00 in 520 bonds with \$388 plus in gold left on hand.

He then with all these bonds, proceeded under the law to take out permits to open National Banks—80 of them with a capital of \$50,000.00 each. These gave him a stock of currency amounting to \$3,748,424.00. Keeping his banks reserves in hand, he then proceeded to exchange \$2,998,746.

for bonds at par, drawing the interest in gold in advance. With this he proceeded as at the first investment and secured \$3,788,66.00 in bonds which he used to establish 72 more banks. He repeated this performance 21 times during the next 18 months and came out with 602 banks, each with a capital of \$50,000.00 and these had on deposit with the treasury, \$34,154,534.00 in 520 bonds, while the banks had deposits of goverment currency amounting to \$10,000,000.00 for which they were paying no interest whatever. Upon all this he was exempt from taxation.

In the grand clean-up he had \$34,154,534.00 in 520 bonds, \$6,722,584.00 in currency, and \$2,049,272.00 in gold. Not so bad for an 18 months clean-up in high finance. To these 602 banks have been added since enough to give the Bank of England over 3000 National Banks, all doing business on exactly the same lines. While native bankers have done their best to at least keep in sight of their English cousins.

This exhibit was carefully prepared by Mr. Albinus A. Worsely from the records in 1895

Is it any wonder that Secretary Chase was full of regrets or that Lincoln, who saw clearly the operation of the whole thing before he signed the bill was moved into prophecy.

Imagine, if you please. This thing has been going on ever since 1863. The game has been played ruthlessly to exploit the people for all that there is in it. If the nation had not had the greatest resources ever known, as well as the greatest faith and patriotism, this awful cancer would long since have eaten it up. Indeed, it remains to be seen

whether it has not done so already.

To meet this we are now with debts over us that amount to more than the total wealth and earning power of the nation, still carrying on in an effort to raise ourselves out of the morass by adding more debt. We are now lost in a financial fog. Senator Bronson Cutting's bill, Senate bill No. 3744 presented in 1934 was a lighthouse giving us a clear ray; as to the way out. A light must illuminate; Cutting's bill not only takes over the Federal Reserve Bank and puts us where Jackson left us but stops Private Banks from selling other people's money, thus giving government the sole right to issue credit and laying the foundation to begin to pay off the public debt; and provides for an increase of money in circulation—without inflation—up to \$250.00 per capita. It means that people could produce without being milked of all they produced.

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The Abraham Lincoln Public Speaking Club Builds Citizenship. Alert and Informed People, Those Regularly Attending, are Always Valued In Other Groups.

MAILING ADDRESS 317 AMERICAN BANK BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON

April 21, 1937

Mr. G. B. Schwieger
Portland Office

My dear Mr. Schwieger:

We are very glad indeed to place the name of Joseph H. Spencer on our mailing list to receive Lincoln Lore. We will be glad to supply him with as many leaflets Forms 2398 and 2399 as he may desire, but we do not have mats which he might use for reprinting these items.

He has our permission to reprint parts of Lincoln Lore which may interest him if he gives credit to the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

With reference to his letter to you on April 9, 1937, in which he solicits your assistance in publishing a bulletin, I do not see how we could be of any help at all in this matter. We would be much interested, however, if he would cite for us his authority for the use of a quotation which he claims could be found in Lincoln's message to Congress in 1863, with respect to the "crisis approaching that unnerves me for the safety of my country."

We would be very glad indeed to assist you in any way we can in cultivating good will and especially among the Abraham Lincoln Public Speaking Club and you may feel free to call upon us for any assistance you feel we will be able to render.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BB

Director

NEWTON VAN DALSEM
1337 WEST 77TH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
PL-5041


8/9/37.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Editor, Lincoln Lore
Box 1110,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a marked copy of a circular issued by an organization of which I am secretary. You will no doubt recognize the quotation, the authenticity of which is disputed. I made a very extensive search some years ago, found the quotation in several copyrighted publications and a Senate Document, but have never yet found any proof as to whether the quotation is authentic or spurious. If you have the facts, and definite proof of them I shall be very grateful to you if you will acquaint me with them. May I hear from you?

Sincerely,



A.V.D.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION No. 1

OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF LIBERAL FREEMASONS

Foreword

Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 3, 1936

The following summary of events leading up to the organizing of our Association is here given:

In connection with the Open Forum of the Masonic Library of Southern California, Ltd., it was decided on February 8, 1933, that a Committee be appointed to ascertain, if possible, what Masons could and should do concerning our present economic crisis. A major portion of the report of the Committee is as follows:

Los Angeles, Calif., June 8, 1933.

To the Masonic Library of Southern California, Ltd.:

Your Committee present herewith detailed minutes of our ten meetings, and our final report, which is as follows:

1. We believe that all members of the Masonic fraternity should recognize the absolutely mandatory character of their obligations, including the requirement to be enlightened and guided by the laws, rules and regulations laid down in the Three Great Lights of Masonry, and in the Grand Lodge constitution and by-laws. This also includes our absolute duty to accept the responsibility and burden of citizenship, and the full exercise thereof.

2. We believe that every Masonic Lodge should have a committee appointed to make a careful study of the duties of citizenship and the obligations and regulations of government, and the functions of the different departments thereof.

3. We believe that the only solution of the economic problem now confronting the nation, and the solution for which we should all strive, lies in a steady and progressive change with the ultimate goal of economic equality and nationalized industry. This change will be fundamental, and will gradually substitute for the present system of private profit a scheme of economy entirely different from anything that has obtained before in the history of the human race. That the time is now ripe for the rapid development of such a change is clearly indicated by numerous publications, including: "Looking Backward," by Bellamy; "Equality," by Bellamy; "One Hundred Questions and Answers on Technocracy," by Heywood and Vale; "Looking Forward," by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

4. We recommend immediate adoption of such measures as:

Nationalization of the banking system; nationally controlled currency and production of commodities; legal limitation of property and income; remedy of

conditions conducive to poverty; public ownership of public utilities, with federal regulation of public utilities and food industries; state insurance and old age and retirement pensions; the placing of major crimes under federal jurisdiction; arbitration of international disputes and abolition of war.

5. We believe that this proposed new scheme of economy will afford such benefits as:

Abolition of exploitation of human beings and their labor; elimination of labor disputes; restoration of mutual confidence in social and business relationships; adequate encouragement and recognition of initiative, giving free rein to both development and utilization of inventions; adequate distribution of all the desirable things of life; general diffusion of education of the highest type; advancement and refinement in all the arts; reduction of crime through elimination of conditions conducive thereto; equitable and friendly international relationships.

Respectfully,

HARRY V. LAW, Chairman

G. M. GRANT

C. R. LARAWAY

C. O. WALDORF

NEWTON VANDALSEM, Secretary.

Personnel of Committee

It happened that these five men, some of whom had never heard of one another before, each represented a different profession. They were an artist, a lawyer, a physician, a mining engineer, and a teacher, and as such furnished a widely diversified background and viewpoint.

Further Work of the Committee:

Following the unanimous adoption of the foregoing report on June 8, 1933, and its acceptance by the Masonic Library on June 14, the Committee continued its meetings until the end of the Masonic year.

Continued study of the quotation from Lincoln (see p. 3 of Minutes) revealed it as incomplete, and also revealed statements by two other Presidents of the United States, each separated from Lincoln by a period of approximately half a century. All three of these quotations are given as follows:

QUOTATION FROM JAMES MADISON:

"We are free today substantially, but the day

See p. 2.

September 3, 1936

will come when our Republic will be an impossibility. It will be an impossibility because wealth will be concentrated in the hands of a few. A republic cannot stand upon bayonets, and when that day comes, when the wealth of the nation will be in the hands of a few, then we must rely upon the wisdom of the best elements in the country to readjust the laws of the nation to the changed conditions."

QUOTATION FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless."

QUOTATIONS FROM WOODROW WILSON:

"The masters of the government of the United States are the combined capitalists and manufacturers of the United States.

"The government of the United States at present is a foster child of the special interests. It is not allowed to have a will of its own.

"The government, which was designed for the people, has gotten into the hands of bosses and their employers, the special interests. An invisible empire has been set up above the forms of democracy.

"America is not a place of which it can be said, as it used to be, that a man may choose his own calling and pursue it as far as his abilities enable him to pursue it.

"American industry is not free as once it was free; American enterprise is not free.

"We have restricted credit, we have restricted opportunity, we have controlled development, and we have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated governments in the civilized world—no longer a government by free opinion, no longer a government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a government by the opinion and the duress of small groups of dominant men."

The Committee Made Into A Permanent Organization

By action of the Masonic Library Board on January 10, 1934, the Committee was made a permanent organization, to be known as the Masonic Educational Extension of the Masonic Library of Southern California, Ltd. This permanent organization, at its third meeting, held on February 22, 1934, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"The purpose of this organization shall be:

"1. To promote the Masonic enlightenment and character of all our members, and in so far as is

practicable, of all our Masonic brethren whithersoever dispersed.

"2. To endeavor by every legitimate means to pursue such a course of action as will tend to unite the liberal and conservative elements of the people of the United States, in a progressive movement embodying the principles laid down in our report of June 8, 1933."

All of the foregoing is taken from the April 1934 issue of the Los Angeles Masonic Index. Reprints of this material were distributed, and there was a surprisingly great demand for them. In fact they are still being distributed. We have noted with much gratification that some of the reforms advocated in the original Report have since been brought about by the present Administration. The banking system has been partially nationalized. Currency has been brought under national control. An attempt has been made to control production of certain commodities. Some progress has been made toward remedying of conditions conducive to poverty, as for instance in national housing, slum clearance, and federal loans for the financing of homes. Federal regulation of public utilities has made an admirable start thru the TVA. Some of our more progressive states have had state insurance and old age pensions for years, and a decided impetus has been given to legislation of this character.

Certain major crimes have been placed under national jurisdiction with salutary results.

The exploitation of human beings and their labor has not been abolished, but has been materially reduced thru Government mediation in labor disputes.

When the Report of the Committee on the Economic Situation first appeared in print in April of 1934 it aroused considerable criticism on the part of conservative Masons who considered it too radical. An attempt was made to suppress it, but since it was not in violation of any Masonic or civil law, but was rather an attempt to bring into renewed action certain fundamental humanitarian and Masonic principles which are older than human history but have been disregarded during the capitalistic age, attempts to suppress it were unsuccessful.

Since however a controversy was threatening to develop, the Masonic Library Board in a resolution adopted on May 9, 1934, discharged the Committee, thanking them for their work and suggesting that they continue under a new name independent of the Library. Accordingly this was done, and after several changes and a considerably increased membership we became known as the Association of Liberal Freemasons, with the same purposes written into our Constitution as are stated above in connection with the original Report.

Now that more than two years have passed since the first publication of the Report, this communication has been prepared by three members of the original Committee and two additional members of our Association. Our purpose is to present the report anew, with a review of the developments of the past two years, and to consider further with regard to the probable developments of the near future.

The great depression is still with us despite the

fact that some of its more serious aspects are ameliorated or remedied, but none are positively cured. However public opinion is gradually crystallizing as to the fundamental cause and permanent cure of depressions.

A three fold approach to a clear understanding of the cause and cure of depressions lies open to us. There is a literary approach to be found in Edward Bellamy's two books, **Looking Backward** and **Equality**. There is a technological approach to be found in the Technocratic movement. And most valuable of all at the present moment because it is capable of reaching by far the greatest number of people with immediate conviction of self evident truth, is the dramatic approach, to be found in the Cycle rituals of the Utopian Society of America.

While there are few people to whom all three of these approaches are at present accessible, they have so much in common that a thorough knowledge of any one of them will include the essentials of all three.

The vast majority of our American citizens in spite of their great diversity of opinions and viewpoints are now thoroughly convinced that a decided change must be made from the old economic order to one which will secure for all of our people the fundamental human rights defined by the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

We present as follows our version of the essential facts pertaining to the necessity for this change:

1. Depressions are not due to over-production, but to lack of adequate distribution. Production is often curtailed and distribution deliberately prevented for the purpose of maintaining profits.

2. This lack of adequate distribution is due to two things: First, our faulty monetary system which permits excessive accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few to the detriment of the many, and second, improved mechanical and technological processes which have tremendously reduced the demand for human labor and at the same time just as tremendously increased the possible volume of production.

Science and engineering have made it possible to produce abundantly and at the same time to provide plenty of leisure. Drudgery has been replaced by the joy of accomplishment. The old economic system however discourages production and destroys the so-called surplus, and has developed a situation wherein the more easily we can produce the worse off we are. A correction of our faulty mental attitude which allows this old economic system to survive, would afford an abundance for all.

3. Production has in spite of modern methods remained almost entirely in private hands, and has been carried on primarily for private profit rather than for general good.

4. This production for private profit, combined with improved methods of production, lack of adequate distribution, unemployment, the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few and the spread of poverty among the masses, inevitably clogs the

channels of trade and slows down the entire economic machine until the so-called surplus of commodities is absorbed or until surplus capital can find a new outlet.

All of these conditions and their possible cure were described by Edward Bellamy nearly half a century ago in his two books, **Looking Backward** and **Equality**. Sufficient time has now elapsed to prove the prophetic character of Bellamy's work, and recent developments strongly indicate that the great fundamental change in our economic system has already begun.

The immediate purpose of the present national Administration is recovery from the depression, and its ultimate purpose is national planning and a prevention of future depressions. This will of necessity include the great change, the principal features of which we believe to be as follows:

1. The government is gradually increasing a supervisory direction of business activities. This move is gaining momentum, and this increasing of government functions will eventually result in public supervision, control, ownership, operation and management of the means of production, beginning with the basic industries, and when this has been accomplished production will be for consumption only. The stupendous waste incurred thru duplication of effort, competition, advertising, high power salesmanship, and hap-hazard investment for private profit will thus be eliminated and there will be an abundance for all.

2. Gold has been withdrawn from circulation in the United States, and a major portion of the civilized world is under a burden of debt which can never be paid. One of the next steps in meeting the existing situation will be for the Government to take inventory of the nation's available resources, and to issue annually in equivalent amount, non-transferable credit certificates, distributing these credit certificates equitably to all the people. Credit certificates which are not used will be cancelled at the end of the fiscal year. Hoarding of wealth will thus become an impossibility, and the incentive for it will disappear.

3. The young men and women of the nation between the ages of 25 and 45 will constitute its great working force, and will be so organized that working hours will be much shorter than at present, and more leisure will be afforded for self-improvement, recreation, and entertainment.

4. Persons over 45 years of age with certain exceptions will be retired and assured their full share of credit certificates for the remainder of their lives.

5. Unlimited facilities for public education will be provided.

6. Crime, which is now mainly a consequence of economic insecurity, will be greatly reduced. As soon as the economic cause of crime is removed crime will begin to disappear.

7. War will likewise cease, and for like reasons. It is really little more or less than organized mass

September 3, 1936

murder, and like private crime can be traced mainly to economic causes.

We believe that the new system when thus established will usher in a new era of civilization, and insure to all an approach toward economic equality and security, and a degree of comfort and well-being such as the world has never yet seen.

This description will inevitably provoke adverse comment, and many will condemn it as being extremely visionary and "too good to be true." This of course must be expected, but careful and serious study of proven facts, and of the trend of events during the past half century, will clearly show that this description is an exceedingly conservative one. When we consider such practical realities as aviation, radio, and television, all of which were clearly prophesied by Bellamy and seemed at the time of writing to be utterly impossible, the few major steps still necessary to complete the fulfillment of his other prophecies seem simple indeed.

But for the benefit of those who have no faith in these prophecies let us look at recent developments in our national affairs. We need to go back only to the World War period, when our first attempt at national planning was made. Trace the history of the War Industries Board at Washington, which by executive order of President Wilson was reorganized under Bernard M. Baruch and given supreme power in mobilizing our war industries and bringing order out of chaos after numerous codes and code authorities had failed, and an almost perfect parallel will immediately become apparent. All that is necessary to make that parallel complete is an executive order from the National Administration for a reorganization of our various federal economic agencies.

If under the stress of international war we were able in a few short months to mobilize the entire citizenry of the United States, raise billions of dollars, build a "bridge of ships" across the Atlantic, and equip and train millions of our young men to go to Europe and help kill the young men of other countries, can we not also in a short time mobilize our working forces, issue the necessary credit certificates, build an economic machine that will function, and put our young men and women to work producing from our unlimited natural resources the things which are needed to establish and maintain the well-being, security and happiness of all our people? There is only one possible answer to this question. It can and must be done.

We recognize one very serious problem confronting our National Administration: namely, how to secure the necessary legislative or Constitutional authority for such an executive order as mentioned above. A striking parallel exists between the problem of abolishing chattel slavery in Lincoln's time and the present problem of abolishing wage slavery and its attendant evils. Both movements have met with precisely the same types of opposition: intrenched interest, prejudiced conservatism, pulpit, press, Supreme Court and all. It will be recalled that Lincoln, from the age of 19 until after he became President in his early fifties, pondered in vain upon his problem and frankly admitted that he could not

see how slavery could legally be abolished. It took a great civil war to open the way to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, which in due time was followed by a Constitutional amendment which made it permanently effective.

We are not at present threatened with civil war, but we are having riots and bloodshed in certain areas, and there are strong indications of a possible Facist attempt at usurpation of governmental power by predatory interests. We believe that one or the other of these two things will surely develop into serious proportions unless more effective governmental action is taken than has been thus far. But the moment that it does develop in any overt and unmistakable form and in open defiance of governmental authority, we believe that liberals and conservatives alike will unite behind the Government as they always have done in time of national crisis, and the Presidential proclamation will be forthcoming. Such a proclamation could then in due time be made permanently effective by a Constitutional amendment.

We believe that when the Presidential proclamation is issued the money changers will be driven permanently from the temple, and that the Economic Revolution, peaceful and bloodless, will be over.

Signed by the Committee:

Harry V. Law, Chairman,
Edward P. Totten,
C. O. Waldorf,
Gurney E. Boyd,
Newton VanDalsem, Secretary.

Unanimously approved by the Association at regular meeting of Sept. 3, 1936:

C. J. Fitzgerald, President,
Newton VanDalsem, Secretary.

Note:—Should this Communication meet with the same measure of approval as did the Report of the original Committee on the Economic Situation, other communications will probably follow. Additional copies of this Communication may be secured at the following rates:

Single copies,	\$.05
Ten copies,	.30
Twenty-five copies,	.75
Fifty copies,	1.25
One hundred or more, (per hundred)	2.50

Send stamps or cash with your request for additional copies to:

Newton VanDalsem
1337 West 77th Street
Los Angeles, California

August 17, 1937

Mr. Newton Van Dalson
1337 West 77th Street
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mr. Van Dalson:

The quotation to which you call our attention in the pamphlet General Communication No. 1 of the Association of Liberal Freemasons is without any doubt spurious. "I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless."

In so far as we can learn the quotation first appeared in 1896 in a book published in Los Angeles by Captain F. Nicolette under the title, "The Gold Conspiracy on the Worst Financial System in the World, How the Bankers Get Rich and All Others Get Poor."

Whether this was the origin or not of this quotation I cannot say, but we cannot trace it back further than this.

4 Of this fact we are sure, it is no where to be found in the writings of Abraham Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Parliament of Man, Los Angeles
Wanderers and Wayfarers, Los Angeles
Long Beach Forum, Long Beach
Glendale Forum, Glendale
Pasadena Town Meeting, Pasadena
World Today Forum, Los Angeles

Telephone EXposition 3630

ASSOCIATED FORUMS, LTD.

214 LOMA DRIVE

FREDERICK W. ROMAN
Pb. D., D. Litt., Director

Los Angeles, California

October 5, 1938

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
c/o Lincoln Life Insurance Co.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

My dear Dr. Warren:

Every now and again someone get up the audience and quotes this paragraph:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove unfounded".

I have been told that Ida Tarbell and others who have made special studies of the life of Lincoln, and this includes yourself, say that this cannot be verified as a writing of Lincoln and they say that the whole thing is a forgery. I myself have doubted its accuracy.

I myself would appreciate it very much if you would give me your opinion about it.

Most cordially yours,

F. W. Roman,
FREDERICK W. ROMAN

FWR:CC

October 10, 1938

Mr. Frederick W. Roman
Associated Forums, Ltd.
214 Loma Drive
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mr. Roman:

There is no question but what the quotation with reference to Lincoln's prophetic visions into the future is an unreliable report of a statement which Lincoln never made.

It was first printed, as far as we can learn, in a book called "The Gold Conspiracy, and the Worst Financial System in the World. How the Bankers Get Rich and All Others Get Poor."

This book by S. Nicolette throws the responsibility of the original quotation upon its author, but whether or not Mr. Nicolette, whoever he may have been, was responsible for this quotation, we do not know.

Since that time it has appeared periodically in many instances and in 1931 found its way into the congressional records.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

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532 PINE AVENUE -- TELEPHONE 669-452

F. DARWIN SMITH, MANAGER

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

VELVET HAINES, ASSISTANT

Dear Mr. Warren:

Can this statement be
verified? It doesn't seem
to me to sound like Braggs.
ZD, anarchist

Braggs also appears in

Americanism

Compiled by Charles Austin

7th Edition December 1838

214 Loma Drive, Los Angeles

"Credit is then given to a letter written by friends
of "Letters" William R. Ebbkin, 1864"

May 2, 1939

Mr. F. Darwin Smith
Long Beach Service Bureau
532 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, California

My dear Mr. Smith:

The delay in reply to your query about the quotation "I see in the near future a crisis, etc." has been due to my absence from the office.

This paragraph first appears, as far as we can learn, in a book written by Captain S. Nicoletti of Los Angeles, California.

It was published in 1896 by the Progressive American Publishing Company of New York, and was called a goal conspiracy.

We have not had many references to this paragraph in publications on the Western Coast, and it is entirely a forgery, although the insert which you sent is the first time we have seen a reference attached to it.

It would be interesting indeed to learn who this William P. Elkin was to whom Lincoln is alleged to have written the letter containing the insert in 1864.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Parliament of Man, Los Angeles
Wanderers and Wayfarers, Los Angeles
Long Beach Forum, Long Beach
Glendale Forum, Glendale
Pasadena Town Meeting, Pasadena
World Today Forum, Los Angeles

Telephone EXposition 3630

ASSOCIATED FORUMS, LTD.

214 LOMA DRIVE

Los Angeles, California

July 11, 1939

FREDERICK W. ROMAN
Pb. D., D. Litt., Director

Lincoln Lore,
C/o Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Fort Wayne, Ind.

My dear Dr. Warren:

Here is a phrase that often is quoted:

"I see a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the future of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow; and the Money Power of the country (that had emasculated the greenbacks and forced the National Bank Act) will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people, until the wealth of the nation is aggregated into a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this time more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war".

Now I have been told by certain authorities that there is no proof that Lincoln ever used this phrase. Will you tell me what the latest facts are on it?

I am enclosing a stamp for reply, and I am, also, sending you a copy of our July paper.

With every appreciation, I am,

Most cordially yours,

F. W. Roman

FREDERICK W. ROMAN

FWR/wb
Enc.

July 20, 1939

Mr. Frederick W. Roman
Associated Forums, Ltd.
214 Loma Drive
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Mr. Roman:

We have had numerous inquiries about this alleged Lincoln quotation which begins, "I see a crisis approaching."

There is no evidence whatever that Lincoln ever used these words and the quotation appeared in a book called, "A Gold Conspiracy" published in 1896 by the Progressive American Publishing Company of New York.

The book was written by Capt. S. Nicolnetti of Los Angeles, California.

There is absolutely no authority for the authenticity of this.

Very truly yours,

LAW:PW
L.A. Warren

Director

American Prophetic League, Inc., Release No. 19

(Box BB, Station E. R.—Los Angeles, Calif.)

THE FAKE LINCOLN QUOTATIONS

Many have been asking about the much-repeated prophecy of complete destruction of the United States attributed to Abraham Lincoln. It runs:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless."

We are glad that the Roman Forum in California has taken up the task of tracing this and reports it a forgery. The Forum warns against the present fashion of trying to make Lincoln and other great ones of our noble past, the authors of moods of thought that may have a correct atmosphere now, but which at the same time are no criterion of the thought and attitude of previous generations.

The greatest authority on the writings and the life of Lincoln is *Lincoln Lore*, located at Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Director is Dr. Louis A. Warren, whose letter of July 20, 1939 is as follows:

"My Dear Dr. Roman:

We have had numerous inquiries about this alleged Lincoln quotation which begins, 'I see a crisis approaching.'

There is no evidence whatever that Lincoln ever used these words and the quotation appeared in a book called, 'A Gold Conspiracy,' published in 1896 by the Progressive American Publishing Company of New York. The book was written by Capt. S. Nicolnetti of Los Angeles, California.

There is absolutely no authority for the authenticity of this quotation.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Louis A. Warren,
Director."

A Forum member, F. Darwin Smith, received a letter from *Lincoln Lore* as follows:

"We have searched Lincoln books including his complete eight volume set purporting to contain everything he ever wrote that was published, and no-

where can we find the name even of Mr. William P. Elkin.

"This is the man to whom this purported statement was supposed to have been sent. No such name occurs anywhere in connection with Mr. Lincoln. As a matter of fact the date is so inconsistent with the things stated in the forgery that it seems very crude, independently of its being wholly unlike the language of Lincoln. In order to have the facts quoted in the extract, it would need to have been written a year or so after Lincoln died. Of course, it is a forgery. It is merely a crude attempt to get the authority of the name "Lincoln" to support some sort of theory that the inventor of it was trying to put over."

Dr. Roman adds: "There is an additional thought in connection with this whole matter. Robert E. Lee had just surrendered a few weeks before Lincoln was supposed to have made this statement. It is not reasonable to suppose that even a man who had the power of vision as did Abraham Lincoln, would have found it possible to digress from the heat, the struggle and the anxiety of a civil war, that had torn the Nation for four long years, to a degree that would have been able to indicate the rise of Capitalism. The truth is that the tariff laws got their start during the Civil War. But there is no reason to believe that even Lincoln could have foreseen the consequences in the form as is indicated."

"Of course, there is a Lincoln myth. Even the Chinese attribute all their inventions and discoveries, that came into existence over a period of 2000 years, to one man. The same attitude is being tried in this country. We are definitely in the role of tracing all virtues, all wisdom, to Abraham Lincoln. Today both the Democrats and the Republicans are always trying to use Lincoln. As a matter of fact, if Lincoln were living today he would not have anything to do with the Democratic party, as it is now being run. And he wouldn't recognize the Republican group as anything that he had ever seen, or imagined."

AN INSTIGATOR

Dr. Frederick A. Aston, successor of the late Dr. Thos. Chalmers in the leadership of the New York Jewish Evangelization Society, says in a recent article reviewing anti-Semitic activities in America:

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN WISCONSIN OUTSIDE OF MILWAUKEE

WILLIAM T. EVJUE
EDITOR
T. C. BOWDEN
BUSINESS MANAGER



MEMBER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
THE NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASS'N
THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

THE CAPITAL TIMES

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MADISON, WISCONSIN

Madison 3, Wisconsin

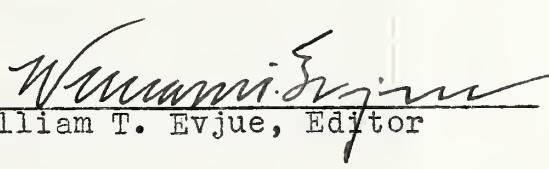
Dr. Louis A. Warren
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

I am seeking some information which I think you can furnish from your vast fund of Lincoln lore. I feel a bit more free to ask for this information because I am a policyholder in your valued company.

There recently came to my desk a vagrant clipping of which the enclosed is a copy. These words attributed to Lincoln carried the heading: "Written to a friend in Illinois shortly before the close of the Civil War." I wonder if you can give me any further information concerning this statement of Lincoln,--the name of the person to whom the letter was sent, etc. I will appreciate this information very much.

Sincerely yours,


William T. Evjue, Editor

WTE:n
Enclosure

Copy

PROPHETIC WORDS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

(Written to a friend in Illinois shortly before the close
of the Civil war.)

"Yes we may all congratulate ourselves that this cruel war
is nearing its close.

"It has cost a vast amount in treasure and in blood. The
best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely
offered upon our country's altar, that the nation might live.
It has been a trying hour, indeed, for the Republic. But I
see in the future a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and
causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result
of this war corporations have been enthroned. An era of
corruption in high places will follow and the money power of
the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon
the prejudices of the people, until all the wealth is aggregated
into a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.

"I feel, at this moment, more anxiety for the safety of my
country than ever before even in the midst of this war."

February 8, 1944

Mr. William T. Evjue, Ed.
The Capital Times
Madison, 3, Wis.

My dear Mr. Evjue:

Dr. Warren is now on his annual speaking itinerary and will not return until the middle of March, therefore I will pass on to you what I have found in our files on the quotation which you forwarded to us.

Below I am quoting part of a letter Dr. Warren wrote to another individual concerning this little quotation, and you will notice quite clearly that there is no proof about it.

"This paragraph first appears, as far as we can learn, in a book written by Captain S. Nicoletti of Los Angeles, California.

"It was published in 1896 by the Progressive American Publishing Company of New York, and was called a coal conspiracy.

"We have not had many references to this paragraph in publications on the Western Coast, and it is entirely a forgery, although the insert which

"...whether or not Mr. Nicolette, whoever he may have been, was responsible for this quotation, we do not know."

As you will note that we do not have any basis to prove its authenticity.

Very truly yours,

mb

Martha Brown, Sec'y.



LINCOLN'S SECRETARY

A Biography of
JOHN G. NICOLAY

by

HELEN NICOLAY



GREENWOOD PRESS, PUBLISHERS
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

1949

In reference to the "prophecy" attributed to Lincoln which was sent the rounds of the newspapers in the late campaign, I have already answered several correspondents as follows:

"I am as confident as I can be without actual examination that the paragraph quoted by you is not in any of President Lincoln's messages nor in any other writing of his of which I have knowledge."

It is easy, however, to see why this was and still is highly prized in certain quarters, for it reads:

Yes, we may all congratulate ourselves that the cruel war is nearing a close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar that the nation might live. It has indeed been a trying hour for the Republic, but I see in the near future a crisis arriving that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As the result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant my suspicions may prove groundless.

In September 1894, my father emphatically assured Perry S. Heath that Mr. Lincoln

Never said or wrote anything that by the utmost license could be distorted to resemble it. Any one who critically scans the language will at once discover intrinsic evidence of its falsity in that the phrases employed bear the stamp of having been invented or of having come into popular use fifteen or twenty years after Lincoln's death. Its origin seems to date back to 1888, as it first obtained circulation in a

little pamphlet printed by an agitator in Iowa, copyrighted on May 10th of that year. It appears there, as now, without explanation or credit. My attention was first called to it in 1890, and though at the time I made an effort to trace it to its source I could obtain no respectable or responsible clue. Since then my colleague Colonel Hay and I have written dozens of letters, in answer to private inquiries, denouncing the forgery. It deserves exposure and reprobation from all fair-minded journals.

This alleged quotation brought about an exchange of letters between my father and the sponsor of the pamphlet, George C. Hackstaff of the Caldwell Remedy Co. whose Chicago store sold "The highest grade of scientific medicine." Mr. Hackstaff questioned my father's right to pronounce the alleged quotation a forgery and demanded proof, while Mr. Lincoln's biographer maintained that when a man prints an alleged quotation he assumes responsibility for it, and that therefore the obligation to present proof rested with Mr. Hackstaff.

One amazing lie, not to be overlooked, since it found lodgment in so respectable a publication as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, concerned, not Mr. Lincoln himself, but an eccentric and not altogether moral Swedish author, born in Stockholm in 1793, who, according to this statement, spent part of his varied career as novelist, forger, and possible murderer under an assumed name in the United States, and during that time served as private secretary to President Lincoln. My father first read this story in a clipping cut from the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*. He then found it also in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* under the heading "Almquist, C. J. Ludwig," and wrote this emphatic denial, which was given to the press:

I have examined the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in the Library of Congress here and find the statement printed

Lincoln Never Said That

by Thomas F. Schwartz

While Abraham Lincoln may be one of the most quoted American Presidents he is unquestionably the most misquoted. More times than not, the origin of the spurious quotation is elusive. When one is able to locate the source of the non-Lincoln sayings, an interesting and often entertaining story results. It is hoped that this column might shed some light on some of the more egregious quotations attributed to Abraham Lincoln, and in the process provide some levity.

A number of years ago, folk singer Pete Seeger sent a fax to the Abraham Lincoln Association trying to verify the following excerpt supposedly contained in a letter written to Thomas Elkins on November 21, 1864: "We may congratulate ourselves that this cruel war, which has cost a vast treasure of blood and money, is almost over. But I see in the future a crisis approaching which fills me with anxiety. As a result of the war, corporations have become enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow. The money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its rule by preying upon the prejudice of the people, until all wealth is concentrated in a few hands, and the republic destroyed. I feel at this time more anxiety for the future of my country than at any time in the past, even in the midst of war."

The tone and content foreshadows Dwight Eisenhower's warning of the dangers of the "military and industrial complex." But is it from the pen of Abraham Lincoln?

A widely quoted early source for the quotation appeared in George H. Shibley, *The Money Question* (Chicago: Stable Mon-

ey Publishing Company, 1896). Caroline Thomas Harnsberger's, *The Lincoln Treasury*, cites Shibley as her source but also warns the reader that "this letter, often quoted is considered by the Abraham Lincoln Association to be spurious." Archer Shaw's, *The Lincoln Encyclopedia*, also includes the letter without any editorial warnings. Shaw cites Emanuel Hertz's, *Abraham Lincoln, a New Portrait*, as his source. Hertz offers no source. And so depending on which reference work one con-

ters "denouncing the forgery." According to Nicolay's daughter, Helen, an exchange of letters ensued between her father and George C. Hackstaff of the Caldwell Remedy Company, regarding the propriety of using a spurious Lincoln quotation to promote patent medicines. Hackstaff took umbrage at Nicolay's accusations and demanded that Nicolay prove the utterance to be false. Nicolay countered that one could not prove a negative and it was incumbent upon Hackstaff to prove it was from an authentic Lincoln letter.

In spite of the efforts of



Pete Seeger

sults, the quotation will be found with and without editorial comment.

The item does not appear in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* nor is there any reference to it in the newspapers for that period. John G. Nicolay was frequently asked about it in 1890 and he traced its origins to a pamphlet by the Caldwell Remedy Company issued on May 10, 1888. Nicolay claimed that both he and John Hay, Lincoln's other personal secretary, responded to dozens of let-

Nicolay and Hay, the quotation would not disappear from print. Robert Todd Lincoln was asked about it on several occasions and took the opportunity on March 12, 1917 to set the record straight in a letter to Henry Clifford Stuart. It is worth quoting in its entirety for it expresses both Robert's detailed research into trivial matters regarding the memory of his father, and it also provides a glimpse of Robert's dry wit.

continued on page 5

Lincoln Never Said That

continued from page 4

"Your letter of the 8th inst., enclosing a copy of one addressed by you to Dr. Howard Taylor, reaches me here. Referring to them both I must reply that I cannot in the special way you suggest give you a basis for discontinuing your denial of Abraham Lincoln's greatness. The quotation which you describe as being in 'Lincoln's letter to his personal friend Elkins, of Illinois, 1864,' is essentially like, and perhaps exactly like, a supposed quotation which has in past years been brought to my attention many times and with varied citations and I have examined the question of its authenticity with care. My own private papers and memoranda in which the results of that examination are preserved are at my summer home in Vermont and not accessible at the present time so that I cannot reply to your letter in the fulness that I would like and must depend upon my memory, and am doing so entirely in writing to you.

The expression in question first appeared, so far as I know, a good many years ago as being part of one of President Lincoln's messages to Congress; that was incorrect as is easily proved; then I saw it in various ways and lastly, I think, a few years ago in a speech in the United States Senate in which, as I remember, the senator used it as an expression of President Lincoln's without discussing its authenticity. I suppose that he will hereafter be quoted as vouching for it.

It is not so easy to dispose of it as being a part of a private letter as it is as being a part of any message to Congress. I have substantially all of President Lincoln's papers which were in his possession at the time of his death. It was not his habit to preserve copies of letters; he had no letter pressbook, but in his papers are a number of drafts of his letters and

some copies made by one of his secretaries at the time. These papers were all carefully searched in regard to the quotation in question and nothing whatever was found. The originals of his letters

but are held by myself, by Jessie W. Weik and by the Hay family; about Mr. Weik I know nothing, but I doubt whether Mr. Hay's children have any such letters. They did have two important manuscripts which were properly owned by Mr. Hay and which they



Robert Todd Lincoln

were of course sent by him to the persons to whom they were written; scores of such letters have been sold by the persons to whom they were addressed or by their representatives; only a few days ago I saw the notice of a sale of five such letters. You say that you were informed that his letters 'were not where they belonged'

have presented to the Congressional Library here.

I cannot remember just when it was, but it is a number of years ago that I discovered what I think is the true and only source of the supposed quotation. It originated, I think, at what is called a Spiritualist Seance in a country

continued on page 6

Lincoln Never Said That

continued from page 5

town in Iowa, a number of years ago, as being a communication by President Lincoln through what is called a Medium, and belief in its authenticity should therefore be held only by those who place confidence in the outgivings of so called Mediums at the gatherings held under their auspices.

As to the letter mentioned in your communication to Dr. Taylor, I can only say that I have no recollection of any personal friend of my father named Elkins. There may be or may [not] have been such a person; and if he received such a letter, as he is probably no longer living, perhaps an advertisement that his representatives could obtain an exceedingly good price for it might lead to its discovery, but personally I do not believe it could be discovered by such means or any other, for I do not think it ever existed.

In considering the subject yourself it does not seem to have occurred to you to take into account the condition of public affairs in 1864 and for a considerable time after President Lincoln's death. I am old enough to remember that time very well, but I do not recall that there was then, or for a good many years thereafter, any public discussion of the danger to the public of corpora-

tions or of combinations of corporations and I do not believe that there was then any feeling whatever adverse to corporations large or small. Yet in the quotation President Lincoln is made to say that 'as a result of the war, (which was by no means then ended,) corporations have been enthroned,' and to express a dread on his part in regard to a condition, the alleged description of which to me seems as much of an anachronism as is shown in the famous ivory carving at Antwerp representing soldiers with muskets as being present at the Adoration of the Magi.

In short, I regard the quotation as being simply an impudent invention."

Robert never sent this letter but took his father's advice and let the matter rest for two days. The letter he sent to Stuart on March 14, 1917, was much shorter and simply stated his dismissal of the quotation's authenticity: "Without attempting to give the details of my examination." As an attorney for the so-called "Robber Barons," Robert's initial response shows a marked defensiveness of corporate America. That aside, the preponderance of evidence undermines the credibility of the quotation as originating with Abraham Lincoln. Quite simply, he never wrote it.

Virtual Library Update

The Abraham Lincoln Association Board approved the creation of an electronic Lincoln Library that would begin by placing *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* and *Lincoln Day By Day*, two of the most valued reference works created by the Association, online. To date, the first eight volumes of *The Collected Works* have been converted to a digital format. Through an agree-

ment with WordCruncher Technologies, a user can search the entire eight volumes by an individual word or a series of words. The words do not need to be in immediate proximity with one another. Another great advantage of WordCruncher is that it shows which words are most frequently used to modify the word or words being searched.

To date, over \$26,000 has

been raised since January, 1998. Work has already begun on *Lincoln Day By Day*. Individuals should be able to access *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* by February 12, 1999.

It is not too late to contribute to this worthwhile project. Donations at any level may be made payable to the Abraham Lincoln Association/Library, One Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Our thanks to the following individuals and organizations who have so generously supported the project in 1998.

President's Club: Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Shapell; **Cabinet Members:** Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; **Ambassador's Club:** Mr. and Mrs. Dan Bannister, Molly Becker, Richard E. Hart, Fred Hoffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schanbacher; **Library Patrons:** R-Lou Barker, Robert Eckley, Donald R. Tracy, The Tracy Foundation, Josephine Saner; **The Keyboard Club:** Brown, Hay and Stephens, Willard Bunn, Jr., George Craig, Harlan Davidson Publishers, Cullom Davis, David Herndon, John Hoffmann, Illinois State Journal Register, Dr. and Mrs. Todd Janus, Hon. Richard Mills, James Myers, Matthew Pinsker, James Rawley, Mr. and Mrs. Raymer, Thomas Vince; **Wide Awake Club:** Winifred Barringer, Norman Boas, Paul Bremer, Richard Cain, Herbert Channick, Hon. Linda Cook, Lenore Farmer, Thomas Farrish, Paul Findley, Elbert Floyd, William Hanchett, Walter Hartsfield, Stanley Herrin, Charles Keaton, Daniel Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Lowe, Michael Mattingly, Thomas O'Mara, Mark Plummer, Carl Volkman, Robert Wernle, Kenneth Winkle; **Library Friends:** Rita F. Amer, Gary Greenberg, Mark Hoyt, Robert Jeffers, O. J. Keller, Jerry Kluetz, Joseph McMenamin, Arseny Melnick, LaVerne Millstead, S. Felton Mitchell, and John Waugh.

Church

would have no man do unto themselves, to my way of thinking they contemned and insulted God and his church far more than did Satan when he tempted the Saviour with the kingdoms of the earth. The devil was no more false, and far less hypocritical. But let me forbear, remembering it is also written, "Judge not lest ye be judged."—*To Dr. Ide and others, May 30, 1864.* X, 110.

Church, opposed to Lincoln—There was the strangest combination of church influence against me [as a candidate for congressional nomination]. Baker [Lincoln's opponent] is a Campbellite; and therefore, as I suppose, with few exceptions got all that church. My wife has some relations in the Presbyterian churches, and some with the Episcopal churches; and therefore, wherever it would tell, I was set down as either the one or the other, while it was everywhere contended that no Christian ought to go for me, because I belonged to no church, was suspected of being a deist and had talked about fighting a duel.—*To M. Morris, March 26, 1843.* I, 262.

Church, gratitude toward—I have had great cause for gratitude for the support so unanimously given by all Christian denominations of the country.—*Reply to Baptist delegation, May 14, 1864.* X, 101.

Church, service of—See **METHODIST CHURCH**, thanked, 2.

Cincinnati, characterized—Good old Cincinnati.—*Speech, Cincinnati, Feb. 12, 1861.* VI, 115.

Cincinnati Platform (1856), Douglas and Dred Scott decision—See **JUDICIAL DECISIONS**, Douglas's attitude toward, 1, 3, 9.

Circuit Courts, proposes change in—See **SUPREME COURT**, modifications suggested.

Civil and Religious Liberty.—See **LIBERTY, CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS**.

Civil Liberty.—See **LIBERTY, CIVIL**.

Civil War; aftermath feared—We may congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing its end. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. . . . It has indeed been a trying hour for the Republic; but I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the

40

The Lincoln Encyclopedia

safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war.—*To William F. Elkins, Nov. 21, 1864.* Herz II, 954.

Civil War, Albany resolutions on—The resolutions [adopted at Albany, May 16], as I understand them, are resolvable into two propositions—first, the expression of a purpose to sustain the cause of the Union, to secure peace through victory, and to support the administration in every constitutional and lawful measure to suppress the rebellion; and, secondly, a declaration of censure upon the administration for supposed unconstitutional action, such as the making of military arrests. And from the two propositions a third is deduced, which is that the gentlemen composing the meeting are resolved on doing their part to maintain our common government and country, despite the folly or wickedness, as they may conceive, of my administration. The position is eminently patriotic and as such I thank the meeting, and congratulate the nation for it. My own purpose is the same; so that the meeting and myself have a common object, and can have no difference, except in the choice of means or measures for effecting that object.—*To Erastus Corning and others, June 12, 1863.* VIII, 289.

See **DEMOCRATIC PARTY**, attitude of, toward war effort, 1.

Civil War, army reduced by "absenteeism"—Nothing is operating so ruinously upon us everywhere as "absenteeism." It positively will not do for me to grant leaves of absence in cases not sufficient to procure them under the regular rules. It would astonish you to know the extent of the evil of "absenteeism." We scarcely have more than half the men we are paying on the spot for service anywhere.—*To T. J. Henderson, Dec. 20, 1862.* Lapsley II, 223.

See **ARMY DESERTION**, serious evil.

Civil War, begun on unequal terms—The rebellion thus begun soon ran into the present Civil War; and, in certain respects, it began on very unequal terms between the parties. The insurgents had been preparing for it more than thirty years, while the government had taken no steps to resist them. The former had carefully considered all the means which could be turned to their account. It undoubtedly was a well-pondered reliance with them that in their own unrestricted effort to destroy the Union, Constitution and law, all together, the government would, in great degree, be restrained by the same Constitution and law from arresting their progress.—*To Erastus Corning and others, June 12, 1863.* VIII, 301.

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What Lincoln Foresaw: Corporations Being "Enthroned" After the Civil War and Re-Writing the Laws Defining Their Existence

by Rick Crawford, crawford@cs.ucdavis.edu

Here is a sobering quote by Abe Lincoln:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. . . . corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed."

-- U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, Nov. 21, 1864
(letter to Col. William F. Elkins)

Ref: *The Lincoln Encyclopedia*, Archer H. Shaw (Macmillan, 1950, NY)

Some people expressed doubts about its authenticity, given Lincoln's work as an attorney for railroad corporations! It was an interesting job tracking it down and verifying its authenticity.

The first ref I heard for this quote was Jack London's 1908 *Iron Heel*. And although the quote indeed appears there (near p. 100), Jack London offered neither context nor source.

More recently, David Korten's book, *When Corporations Rule the World* (1995, Kumarian Press), sources the quote to Harvey Wasserman (*America Born and Reborn*, Macmillan, 1983, p. 89-90, 313), who in turn sources it to *Paha Sapa Reports*, the newspaper of the Black Hills Alliance, Rapid City, South Dakota, 4 March 1982. But given Wasserman's ties to Howard Zinn, and his status as co-founder (?) of the Liberation News Service, citing that kind of trail is like waving a red flag for the skeptics ;-)

Fortunately, after some burrowing in the univ. library, I was able to confirm its authenticity. Here it is, with more surrounding context:



"We may congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing its end.
It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. . . .
It has indeed been a trying hour for the Republic; but
I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes
me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war,
corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places
will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong
its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth

P. 7

is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.
 I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety
 of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war.
 God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless."

The passage appears in a letter from Lincoln to (Col.) William F. Elkins, Nov. 21, 1864.

For a reliable pedigree, cite p. 40 of *The Lincoln Encyclopedia*, by Archer H. Shaw (Macmillan, 1950, NY). That traces the quote's lineage to p. 954 of *Abraham Lincoln: A New Portrait*, (Vol. 2) by Emanuel Hertz (Horace Liveright Inc, 1931, NY).

Based on about 3 hrs of research, it appears Lincoln has been extensively SANITIZED FOR OUR PROTECTION. *The Hidden Lincoln; from the Letters and Papers of William H. Herndon*, by Emanuel Hertz (Viking Press, 1938, NY), details how Herndon (Lincoln's lifelong law partner) collected an extensive oral history and aggregated much of Lincoln's writings into a collection that served as the basis for many "authoritative" books on Lincoln.

By all accounts, Herndon was scrupulously honest and plainspoken. Hertz quotes Herndon's characterization of the various "big-name" authors who relied on his collection for primary source materials:

"They are aiming, first, to do a superb piece of literary work; second, to make the story *WITH THE CLASSES AS AGAINST THE MASSES*. [my emphasis added] It will result in delineating the real Lincoln about as well as does a wax figure in the museum."

In several books, I found numerous places where Lincoln spoke about Capital and Labor ("Workingmen"). Lincoln re-used his own material frequently, and virtually identical passages appear in several places. Lincoln praises the moral rightness of *both* Capital and Labor, but this is *invariably* in the context of a nation where *NO MORE THAN ONE MAN IN EIGHT* is a Capitalist or a Laborer, ie, where 7/8 of the population are "self-employed" on their own farms and homesteads.

This social context of general self-sufficiency would explain how Lincoln could serve for years as a railroad corporation lawyer with (apparently) no qualms, yet pen the "corporations enthroned" passage to Elkins.

A final Lincoln tidbit, although it pertains to one very specific case:

"These capitalists generally act harmoniously and in concert to fleece the people, and now that they have got into a quarrel with themselves, we are called upon to appropriate the people's money to settle the quarrel."

speech to Illinois legislature, Jan. 1837.
 See Vol. 1, p. 24 of *Lincoln's Complete Works*,
 ed. by Nicolay and Hay, 1905)

Historian gets honest about Abe

By John O'Connor
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — When it comes to Abraham Lincoln, some of the people are fooled all of the time.

Remarks attributed to the quotable 16th president have popped up in everything from TV commercials to speeches by famous generals, presidents and even recent anti-war protesters.

Too often, they are phrases that Lincoln never uttered, experts at the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency say.



Lincoln

College in Galesburg.

"He seems to provide validation for just about anything anybody wants to have validated, and if you can't find a Lincoln quote, you make one up."

Quotes by a minister, a poet and even an actor portraying Lincoln on an episode of "Star Trek" have been attributed to the president, according to Illinois state historian Thomas Schwartz.

The preservation agency has added a page to its Web site that exposes famous sayings Lincoln never made.

Among the more famous is this one: "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

Allegedly part of a September 1858 speech in Clinton, the sentence does not show up in the text printed in the local newspaper, Schwartz

Misattributed to Lincoln

These are some of the phrases frequently – and wrongly – attributed to Abraham Lincoln, according to Illinois state historian Thomas Schwartz:

"Corporations have become enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow . . . until all wealth is concentrated in a few hands, and the republic destroyed."

Allegedly from a November 1864 letter. Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, has traced this quote to a seance in Iowa in which Lincoln supposedly spoke through a "medium."

"There's no honorable way to kill, no gentle way to destroy. There's nothing good in war except its ending."

Attributed to Lincoln by anti-war protesters earlier this year, the statement was made by an actor portraying Lincoln in an episode of "Star Trek."

"You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help small men by tearing down big men. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich."

Three of the famous "Ten Cannots" with which Lincoln is wrongly credited, including by former President Reagan at the 1992 Republican National Convention. They were written by a minister in 1916.

"The strength of the nation lies in the homes of its people."

Widely quoted on homebuilders' and real estate Web sites, the closest utterance resembling it is in an August 1928 speech by President Hoover: "The foundation of American life rests upon the home and the family."

"To sin by silence, when they should protest, makes cowards of men."

Cited by Gen. Douglas MacArthur in a speech after he was relieved of duty in Korea, it is from a poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

— The Associated Press

said. The best evidence comes from two people in 1910 recollecting that Lincoln said it in 1856.

Davis hopes the Web site, which also highlights fake Lincoln documents, will remind people "that there is such a thing as intellectual or scholarly honesty."

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What Al Wishes Abe Said

BY ANDREW FERGUSON

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In a chapter titled "The Politics of Wealth," Al Gore argues in his new book, "The Assault on Reason," that the ancient threat to democracy posed by rich people run amok has finally been realized under the man who beat him in the 2000 presidential race.

Even Lincoln, Mr. Gore says, saw the age of Bush coming in 1864: "I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed."

The quote is a favorite of liberal bloggers, which is probably how Mr. Gore came across it. And as a description of how many on the Left see the country seven years into their Bush nightmare, it's pretty much perfect.

Too perfect, in fact. If you're familiar with Lincoln's distinctive way of expressing himself, you'll hear the false notes the passage strikes. For one thing, Lincoln just wasn't the "trembling" kind — or if he was, he kept his trembling to himself.

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What Al Wishes Abe Said

Words such as "enthroned" and "aggregated" are a bit too fancy for his plain, unclotted prose, and the phrase "money power" suggests a conspiratorial turn of mind that would have been foreign to him. Indeed, these words don't show up anywhere else in "The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln," which, thanks to Mr. Gore's Internet, are now searchable at quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln.

Moreover, the point of the passage is very un-Lincolnian. A corporate lawyer whose long and cunning labor on behalf of the railroads earned him a comfortable income, Lincoln was a vigorous champion of market capitalism, even when it drifted, as it tends to do, toward large concentrations of wealth. Many of his administration's signal initiatives — the transcontinental railroad, for example — amounted to what liberals today would condemn as "corporate welfare." Lots of speculators got rich under Lincoln, as Mr. Gore notes. As Mr. Gore does not note, Lincoln seemed not to have minded.

Unless, of course, Mr. Gore's quote from a trembling Abe was evidence of his real thinking.

It isn't, though. It's a fake.

Writing in 1999 in the Abraham Lincoln Association's newsletter, the great Lincoln historian, Thomas Schwartz, traced the bogus passage to the 1880s, about 20 years after Lincoln's death.

One theory is that it first appeared in a pamphlet advertising patent medicines. Opponents of Gilded Age capitalism — Mr. Gore's forerunners — found the quote so useful that Lincoln's former White House secretaries felt compelled to launch a campaign "denouncing the forgery," Mr. Schwartz said. Robert Todd Lincoln, who was the president's only surviving son and himself a wealthy railroad lawyer, called it "an impudent invention" that ascribed to his father views that the former president would never have held.

"I discovered what I think is the true and only source of this supposed quotation," Robert wrote in an unpublished letter, probably tongue-in-cheek. "It originated, I think, at what is called a Spiritualist Seance in a country town in Iowa, a number of years ago, as being a communication by President Lincoln through what is called a Medium." Even bloggers might think twice about trusting such a source.

It goes without saying that Mr. Gore isn't the first politician to enlist Lincoln, however spuriously, in a pet cause. In 1992, Ronald Reagan used his last appearance at a GOP convention to warn of a liberal ascendancy that threatened Lincoln's cherished Republican principles.

Reagan quoted a litany of these, supposedly in Lincoln's own words: "You cannot help small men by tearing down big men"; "You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich"; and so on. As the New York Times immediately and gleefully pointed out, the lines were written by a Baptist preacher in 1916. Reagan's speechwriter found them, under Lincoln's name, in a book called "The Toastmaster's Treasure Chest."

I was reminded of the Great Toastmaster's mistake not long ago while reading "Why Lincoln Matters" by the former governor of New York, Mario Cuomo. "Claiming the mantle of Lincoln," Mr. Cuomo wrote, "has been part of the fabric of political discourse practically from the moment Lincoln was assassinated." True, though it didn't stop Mr. Cuomo from writing his book to "prove" that if Lincoln were alive today, his political views would be indistinguishable from Mr. Cuomo's.

And of course, it's not just politicians who look to Abe for their scripture. In 2005, a young journalist who has struggled with depression wrote "Lincoln's Melancholy" to show that the president's greatness was fueled by his struggle with depression. And that same year, a gay activist wrote "The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln" to show that Lincoln was gay, too — or, as another activist put it, "He's ours."

Well, sure: He is ours, but who we think "he" is seems to depend, to an alarming degree, on who we think "we" are.

What Al Wishes Abe Said

A more interesting question for us — whoever we are — is whether there isn't some real, plausible, universal Lincoln that we, all of us, can lay claim to and learn from, regardless of our prejudices.

For a century or more, Americans have told themselves that they wanted to be like Lincoln: brave, resolute, patient, kind. But as Mr. Gore has just demonstrated all over again — in perhaps his book's most useful lesson — what we've really wanted is for Lincoln to be like us.

Mr. Ferguson is a senior editor at the Weekly Standard and the author of "Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America."

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<http://www.snopes.com/quotes/lincoln.asp>

Lincoln's Prophecy

Claim: Abraham Lincoln issued a prophetic warning about the tyranny of capitalism.

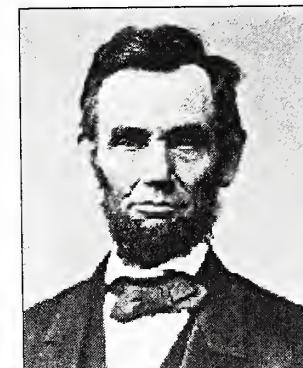
Status: *False*.

Example:

As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless.

Origins: The above quote, attributed to President Abraham Lincoln, has been periodically dusted off and presented to the public as a prophetic warning about the destruction of America through the usurpation of power and concentration of wealth by capitalist tyrants for over a century now, undergoing a renewed burst of popularity whenever wartime exigencies stir public debate over governmental policies.

These words did not originate with Abraham Lincoln, however – they appear in none of his collected writings or speeches, and they did not surface until more than twenty years after his death (and were immediately denounced as a "bold, unflushing forgery" by John Nicolay, Lincoln's private secretary). This spurious Lincoln warning gained currency during the 1896 presidential election season (when economic policy, particularly the USA's adherence to the gold standard, was the major campaign issue), and ever since then it has been cited and quoted by innumerable journalists, clergymen, congressmen, and compilers of encyclopedias.



Pedigree for this quote is often asserted by pointing to the 1950 *Lincoln Encyclopedia*, compiled by Archer H. Shaw, which "authenticates" the quote by citing a purported 1864 letter from Lincoln to one Col. William F. Elkins found in Emanuel Hertz's 1931 book, *Abraham Lincoln: A New Portrait*. However, this source is fraudulent: Hertz was taken in by a forgery, and Shaw, a sloppy compiler, added the bogus letter to his encyclopedia (along with several other pieces of Lincoln apocrypha) without verifying its authenticity. As historian Merrill Peterson noted in *Lincoln in American Memory*:

A *Lincoln Encyclopedia*, the brainchild of an Ohio newspaperman, Archer H. Shaw, made its appearance in 1950. Here, conveniently arranged from A to Y — from

"A.B.C. Schools, attended by Lincoln" to "Young Men, attitude toward" — were the great man's spoken and written words for ready reference. "Mr. Lincoln is the most quotable notable in history," David Mearns opined in the Introduction. He might have added "one of the most fraudulently quoted" as well. Regrettably, some of these errors crept into the *Encyclopedia*. Here, for instance, was the oft-heard warning against "corporations enthroned" by the war, the letter to Colonel Taylor on the origin of Greenbacks, and an alleged plea to an Illinois jury in 1839 in defense of fifteen women on trial for saloon smashing. Protecting the Lincoln canon from spurious intruders was an ongoing problem.

Why have these "money powers" words been put in the mouth of Abraham Lincoln? In a general sense, the reason is because dead people — especially revered leaders — make great commentators on modern-day politics: They can't be questioned about the legitimacy of their comments, interrogated about what they meant, or asked to elaborate about the subject at hand; they can only be refuted through imprudent suggestions that Our Revered Leader was wrong!

In a specific sense, this quote sounds plausible because Lincoln's tenure as president occurred during a great war that was indeed the focal point of industrial and economic change in America, and because Lincoln left behind some decidedly pro-labor statements. As Merrill Peterson detailed:

It was easy to understand Lincoln's appeal to social radicals, said [socialist William J.] Ghent, for he held very advanced views of the rights of labor. As early as 1847 he had written, "To secure to each labourer the whole product of his labour, or as nearly as possible, is a most worthy object of any good government," which was remarkable for a prarie lawyer of that time. Speaking in New England in 1860, he praised the right to strike, as then being exercised by the shoemakers of Lynn. His clear assertion of the labor theory of value in the 1861 message — "Labor is prior to, and . . . superior to capital" — and his answers to the addresses of workingmen abroad and at home gave a color of Marxism to his thinking. He was, surely, the best friend labor ever had in the White House.

Nonetheless, Peterson concluded, even Lincoln's wartime experience and pro-labor credentials don't justify the attribution of the "money power" warning to him:

Nevertheless, he was no prophet. Imprisoned in the democratic-capitalist ideology of nineteenth-century America, he believed the free laborer toiled up from poverty to become a capitalist in his own right. Individual opportunity, not class struggle, was his message.

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Sources:

Ghent, W.J. "Lincoln and the Social Problem."
Collier's v. 35; #23-24 (1905).

Peterson, Merrill D. *Lincoln in American Memory*.
New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-19-509645-2 (pp. 160-161, 340).

LINCOLN ON THE MONEY POWER.

Lincoln's (reputed) letter of Nov. 21, 1864
to Wm. F. Elkin. (see Shibley page 282)

"Yes, we may all congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing its close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar that the nation might live. It has been indeed a trying hour for the republic; but I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country.

As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless.

"The bill empowering the Secretary of the Treasury to sell the surplus gold had recently passed, and Mr. Chase was then in New York, giving his attention personally to the experiment. Governor Curtin referred to this, saying, "I see by the quotations that Chase's movement has already knocked gold down several per cent." This gave occasion for the strongest expression I ever heard fall from the lips of Mr. Lincoln. Knotting his face in the intensity of his feeling, he said, "Curtin, what do you think of those fellows in Wall Street, who are gambling in gold at such a time as this?" "They are a set of sharks," returned Curtin. "For my part," continued the President, bringing his clinched hand down on the table, "I wish every one of them had his devilish head shot off!"

From Frank Carpenter's "Six Months at the White House"
page 34.

Lincoln's Warning

appeared as an

editorial as early as

July 29. 1891

Lincoln's letter dated Nov 21, 65
to Mr F. Elkin (Shubley p. 282)

"Yes, we may all congratulate ourselves
that this cruel war is nearing its close. It
has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood.
The best blood of the flower of American youth
has been freely offered upon our country's
altar that the nation might live. It has
been indeed a trying hour for the
republic; but I see in the near future
a crisis approaching that endangers all
and causes me to tremble for the safety of
my country.

As a result of the war corporations have
been enthroned and an era of corruption
in high places will follow, and the money power
of the country will endeavor to prolong its
reign by working upon the prejudices of the
people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands,
and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment
more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever
before even in the midst of war. God grant that my
suspicions may prove groundless.

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Through the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation of New York City I learned of a new title to be added to the list of books belonging in a "Lincoln's Library" - a book on the science of politics, entitled "The Theory of Human Progression, and Natural Probability of a Reign of Justice", written by Patrick Dove and first published in England, in 1850.

Their information was that Sumner had read the book and that it so pleased him that he used his influence to have it published in this country, and gave out quite a number of copies to friends, among whom was Abraham Lincoln.

In searching for the 1856 edition I actually visited twenty-four stores, and wrote to six outside places, and found but one copy. This I am offering to you for six dollars, delivered.

“**A**S A RESULT of the War, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war.”

Abraham Lincoln.

F. A. HIGH.

Seeks source

SIRS: Your letter in the March 23 issue of The News, in which "Lincoln's message to congress in 1865" is quoted, has attracted my attention.

I am curious to know how "A. P. F." assembled the four passages quoted—the fourth of which is from the second inaugural address, the third attributed by Nicolay and Hay to the year 1847, the second from Lincoln's first annual message to congress, December 1861 and the first, in which I am particularly interested and which is frequently quoted without giving its original source and setting.

As great an authority as John Nicolay has declared that these words are not Lincoln's, and that he had long searched for their origin but without success. I will be under obligations to "A. P. F." if he will supply an authentic source for these words. H. E. BARKER.

N
B

Inadequate defenses

LINCOLN ON THE MONEY POWER.

From letter to W. L. Elkin, Nov. 1864. Quoted in Shibley on Money, p.282

The following comment is from Personal Traits of Lincoln, by H.Nicolay, p.379.

"Remembering the wisdom of Lincoln who presided over the other great change, people have sought to make him a prophet for this generation. Not finding what they wanted among his words, the unscrupulous have not hesitated to invent them.

"My father once made a list of a dozen or more spurious quotations and allegations concerning Lincoln; but the one he was most often called upon to deny, was this: "Yes, we can all congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is drawing to a close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar that the nation might live. It has been a trying hour for the republic, but I see in the near future a crisis arising which unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this time more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of the war. God grant that my fears may prove groundless!"

This alleged quotation seems to have made its first appearance in the Presidential campaign of 1888, and it has returned with planetary regularity ever since. Although convinced by internal evidence of its falsity, my father made every effort to trace it to its source, but could find no responsible or respectable clue. The truth is that Lincoln was no prophet of a distant day. His heart and mind were busy with the problems of his own time. The legacy he left his countrymen was not the warning of the seer, but an example and an obligation to face their own dark shadows with the sanity and courageous independence he showed in looking upon those that confronted him."

Also quoted by Burke McCarty, on page 15 of LITTLE SERMONS IN SOCIALISM.

Dr. E. Hertz, on pages 954-5 of LINCOLN: A NEW PORTRAIT.

Discussed in AM. PROPHETIC LEAGUE, RELEASE NO. 19

Capt. S. Nicolnetti, in A GOLD CONSPIRACY. Pub. 1896

Taylor-Fulwider in L'S WORDS ON LIVING QUESTIONS, p. 125-135

Anonymous writing

Sounded A Warning.

To the Editor of The News-Sentinel:

The great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, said just before his assassination: "I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. Corporations have been enthroned, an era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until the wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed."

We call it the machine age. Why is the labor saving machine not taxed according to the labor it saves and the laborer paid a living in shorter hours on duty?

Why did the Federal Administration allow big business to merge and kill the small business that was the life of our own country? Reverse these two facts by limiting the fortunes of man and the wealth of our country will find its own level among the people through the rules of the Constitution of our Government.

AN ENGINEER.

Spurious Quote

Editor, the Post-Gazette:

A recent letter to the editor [The People Speak, Aug. 30] offered an alleged quotation from Abraham Lincoln as follows: "And I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will seek to protect its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic destroyed."

Doubting the authenticity of this quotation I referred it to the Lincoln National Life Foundation of Fort Wayne, Indiana, which maintains one of the most complete collections of written and printed Lincoln material in the country.

The director, Dr. Louis O. Warren, writes that the quotation is spurious. It first appeared in a book entitled "A Gold Conspiracy" published in 1896 by the Progressive American Publishing Company of New York. The book was written by Capt. S. Nicolletti of Los Angeles.

Says Dr. Warren, "There is absolutely no authority for the authenticity of this quotation."

RICHARD H. STONE
Pittsburgh.

